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Research Article

A STUDY ON POULTRY ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY BENEFICIARIES OF JEEVIKA PROJECT IN BIHAR STATE

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Abstract- Bihar is one of the poorest and most populous states in India. The share of employment in agriculture and allied activities is 68.9 percent in Bihar. This study is attempting to undertake a micro level analysis of collected data to assess the carried out by jeevika project in Muraul Block of Muzaffarpur District of Bihar. Study reveals that t calculated (13.975) value of investment and t calculated (16.725) value of return was more than t table (2.059) value of investment and return respectively. Comparison among investment as well as return in Poultry activity practiced by the respondents, before and after joining the project through paired t-test, showed a significant difference hence providing positive effect on the life of project beneficiaries.

Keywords- Study, Jeevika, Livelihood interventions, Poultry.

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Introduction

Reducing rural poverty is not simple. Policies and programmes necessarily rest on assumptions about how people live, what they need, and how they will respond to new incentives, regulations and opportunities. Livelihood analysis helps to improve; our understanding of what is really happening in people's lives, what enables some, but not others, to escape from poverty, and how people are affected by policy.

Rural men and women, especially in poor households engage in diverse and multiple activities to improve their livelihoods by maximizing income-generating activities, while minimizing vulnerability and risk and achieving other household objectives (improved health, nutrition and education *etc.*). These activities may include farm, non-farm and other nonagricultural activities, often linked with other activities carried out by rural as well as non-rural households. The effectiveness and profitability of these diverse livelihood systems will vary depending on the general development environment, each household member's access to and control of the asset base, their productive and reproductive roles and responsibilities, their capabilities and their linkages with other rural and urban sectors [1].

The rural poverty situation in India is highly complex and greatly differentiated by geography, demography and social class. Bihar is one of the poorest and most populous states in India. On Human Development Index, Bihar stands at the bottom among the Indian states. The per capita income of the state is the lowest in the country and ranked as 7th poorest with 42.56% of its population below poverty line. The literacy rate is 47.53% that is much below the national average of 65.4%. Demographic indicators like birth rate and infant mortality rate are also high which reflects poor social service delivery. Less economic opportunities due to limited infrastructural development etc. leads towards highly disadvantaged social and economic conditions [2].

The government of India and various State Governments have been implementing various programmes for rural uplift. However, rural poverty and unemployment still persist in the country. This problem is becoming severe and acute. Considering the gravity and intensity of the problem, many Voluntary Development Organizations (VDOs) have come forward with different programmes for the rural poor in the country. These agencies undertake various innovative programmes and schemes to address the issue of poverty and unemployment prevailing in our country [3]

The developmental organizations around the world are acting as agencies for bringing changes in less developed areas. The United Nations and its millennium development goals, the World Bank and other international agencies act as global agencies of action. While at national level the Government of India along with the state governments is also planning various programmes for development of marginalized and of rural areas. The synergy between state and society has been identified as catalyst for development by experts [4]

Taking cognizance of the enormity of problem, the government of Bihar has initiated a project Jeevika-Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Project in six districts of Bihar *viz.* Nalanda, Gaya, Khagaria, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani and Purnia in 2007. Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP) is an ambitious project of the Government of Bihar for the alleviation of poverty in the State. The objective of the project is to provide right & equal opportunities for livelihoods for rural community especially poor [5].

Thus, keeping in view, the importance of the project for the changes caused in the life of beneficiaries after being enrolled in this project the study was undertaken with the specific objective:

To study the Comparison among investment as well as return in Poultry activity practiced by the respondents, before and after joining the Jeevika project in Muraul block of Muzaffarpur district of Bihar.

Materials and Methods

Description of study area

Bihar is India's third-most populous state after Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. According to the 2011 Census, the population of Bihar is 103 million, which is about 8.58 percent of the total population of the country. Over the last decade, the state has witnessed a 25 percent growth in its population, which is among the

highest in India; and with a fertility rate of 3.7, it is only going to increase further. The state also has the highest density of population of over 1,000 persons per sq km. Almost 58% of Bihar is are below the age of 25, which is the highest proportion in India [6]. Out of the thirty-eight district of Bihar purposively Muzaffarpur district was selected for the following reasons:

1. Muzaffarpur is the third most populous and sixth most densely populated out of 38 districts in Bihar and has the highest population among the six district in which Jeevika was started initially i.e. Nalanda, Gaya, Khagaria, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani and Purina in 2007 [7].
2. Existence of maximum number of SHGs among the entire district initially covered under Jeevika.

Sampling techniques

The study was conducted in Muraul block of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar state. Muraul block has total 920 SHGs with 11430 beneficiaries. Out of the 920 SHGs, 13 SHGs were selected randomly and a total of 160 respondents were selected randomly from these 13 SHGs for the study, keeping in view the availability of time, other resources and convenience of the researcher. From each of selected self help groups, women representatives were selected as a sample for data collection. The research design adopted for the present study was ex-post facto, since the phenomenon had already taken place

Fig-1 Block wise Map of Muzaffarpur District (Source: muzaffarpur.bih.nic.)

Result and Discussion

Comparison between Investment in Poultry before and after Project

Table-1 *Distribution of respondents according to their Investment in Poultry:*

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before investment	1.7585	26	93.34139	18.30575
	After investment	2.2596	26	102.24499	20.05189

In poultry intervention 26 respondent were engaged, the average of their total investment before and after the project were 1.75 and 2.25 respectively with Standard deviation 93.34 and 102.2 before and after project respectively and standard error of mean 18.30 and 20.05 before and after project.

Paired Samples Correlations				
		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before investment &After investment	26	.987	.000

The correlation between investment in poultry intervention before and after project was highly positive. So, we can say that there was dependency of investment between before and after the project. Thus, for checking significant difference between investment before and after project Paired t-test was applied.

Paired Samples Test					
		t_{cal}	Degree of freedom	t_{tab}	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	Before investment – After investment	-13.975	25	2.059	.000

*5% level of significance

From above information it can be revealed that t calculated (13.975) value of investment was more than t Table (2.059) value of investment. There was significant difference between Investment before and after the project. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted as under:
The difference between investment in poultry before and after the project is significant. Thus it can be concluded that there was significant effect on investment in poultry intervention practiced by the respondents.

II. Comparison between Return in poultry before and after Project

Table-2 *Distribution of respondents on the basis of their Return in Poultry*

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Before return	4.1923	26	169.16082	33.17517
	After return	6.4462	26	221.18283	43.37752

In Poultry intervention 26 respondent were engaged, the average of their total return before and after the project were 4.19 and 6.44 respectively with Standard deviation 169.16 and 221.18 before and after project respectively and standard error of mean 33.17 and 43.37 before and after project.

Paired Samples Correlations				
		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before return &After return	26	.973	.000

The correlation between return in poultry intervention before and after project was highly positive. So, we can say that there was dependency of return between before and after the project. Thus, for checking significant difference between return before and after project paired t-test was applied.

Paired Samples Test					
		t_{cal}	Degree of freedom	t_{tab}	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	Before return – After return	-16.725	25	2.059	.000

*5% level of significance

From above information it can be revealed that t calculated (16.725) value of return was more than t Table (2.059) value of return. There was significant difference between return before and after the project. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted as under:
The difference between return in poultry before and after the project is significant. Thus it can be concluded that there was significant effect on return in poultry intervention practiced by the respondents.

Conclusion

The developmental organizations around the world are acting as agencies for bringing changes in less developed areas. The United Nations and its millennium development goals, the World Bank and other international agencies act as global agencies of action. While at national level the Government of India along with the state governments is also planning various programmes for development of marginalized and of rural areas. t calculated (13.975) value of investment and t calculated (16.725) value of return was more than t Table (2.059) value of

investment and return respectively. Comparison among investment as well as return in Poultry activity practiced by the respondents, before and after joining the project through paired t-test, showed a significant difference hence providing positive effect on the life of project beneficiaries. Thus, it can be concluded that there was significant effect on investment in poultry intervention practiced by the respondents. There was also significant effect on return in poultry intervention practiced by the respondents. Comparison among investment as well as return in Poultry activity practiced by the respondents, before and after joining the project through paired t-test, showed a significant difference hence providing positive effect on the life of project beneficiaries

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Authors' Contributions
This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Author Kirti designed the research study, performed the statistical analysis and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author B Jirli supervised and designed the work. Author P K Mandal managed the literature searches and edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflict of Interest: None declared

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