

Impact of Udyogini scheme on annual income of women beneficiaries in Kolar district of Karnataka state

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Abstract

The present study was carried out in four taluks of Kolar district in Karnataka state during 2014-15 to analyze the impact of Udyogini scheme on annual income of women beneficiaries. One hundred and twenty women beneficiaries of Udyogini scheme from 20 villages of four taluks in Kolar district were personally interviewed using a pre-structured schedule. The results revealed that 40.00 per cent of the women beneficiaries belonged to medium category of annual income followed by low (39.17%) and high (20.83%) annual income category before participation in the scheme. Whereas, after the participation of the beneficiaries in the Udyogini scheme, 38.33 per cent of the beneficiaries belonged to high category of annual income followed by medium (31.67%) and low (30.00%) annual income category. The mean annual income of women beneficiaries before their participation in Udyogini scheme was Rs. 33,086/ and after their participation in Udyogini scheme the annual income raised to Rs. 51,485/. The annual income of the women beneficiaries has increased by 58.64 per cent.

Extension participation, achievement motivation and mass media participation of the women beneficiaries had significant to highly significant relationship with their annual income after their participation in Udyogini scheme. Majority (62.50%) of the women beneficiaries faced the constraint of difficulty in repaying the 'monthly' loan installment. Increase in the loan and subsidy amount (60.83%) and repayment of loan installment once in three months (58.33%) were the suggestions expressed by majority of the women beneficiaries for the effective implementation of Udyogini scheme.

Keywords: Empowerment, Annual income, Beneficiaries, Problems, Suggestions

Introduction

Empowerment is a process that helps and assists women to realize their identity, capacity, capability, strength and power and its application in day to day life in various spheres. It enables them to have access to resources, greater say in decision making, more ability to plan their time and family

size, also free them from irrelevant customs, traditions, practices and prejudices. The concept of empowerment of women as a goal of development project and programs has been gaining wider acceptances, especially since the last two decades. A salient feature of the term empowerment is that it contains within it the word. This

power operates in all fields of life as economic, social, political, and religious and education etc. Behind most attempts to increase woman's power, successive and continual denial of two most important powers. i.e education and economic independence has resulted in large scale powerlessness among women.

In a society that has been thriving for egalitarian status, empowering women should be among the top priorities, about 40 per cent of entire women population in the country is below poverty line. A huge step was taken by Government of Karnataka during 1987 establishing, Karnataka State Women Development Corporation (KSWDC) to look after the welfare of the women in need by initiating the Udyogini scheme.

Udyogini scheme is sanctioned by the Government of Karnataka through KSWDC in the year 1997-98 to assist women in gaining self reliance through self employment by providing loans through banks and other financial institutions. It also provides a subsidy from the KSWDC for undertaking business activities or micro enterprises. Loans are arranged through financial institutions like commercial banks and regional rural banks. This scheme has gone a long way in preventing women entrepreneurs from private borrowing at high rate of interest.

Under this scheme, the maximum amount given for the women as loan is Rs 100,000/-. The age limit for beneficiaries is 18-45 years and the family income limit to avail this benefit is Rs 40,000/- per annum for all the women including those belonging to SC/ST. No income limits prescribed for women belonging to special category viz., widows, destitute and disabled women. KSWDC provides a subsidy at 30 per cent of the loan sanctioned for widows, destitute, disabled women and women belonging to SC/ST or Rs. 10,000/-, whichever is less, In case of the general category women, the

subsidy is at 20 per cent of the loan or Rs 7500/-, whichever is less.

The popular entrepreneurial activities supported for women under Udyogini scheme are: agriculture and allied activities, tailoring, pottery, crèche, wet grinding, eat-outs, dry fish trade, vegetable and fruit vending, mat weaving, dry cleaning, saree business, stationary shops, provision shop etc. It is high time to know the impact of Udyogini scheme on the annual income of the beneficiaries. Against this background, the present study was carried out with the following specific objectives:

1. To analyze the impact of Udyogini scheme on annual income of women beneficiaries
2. To find out the relationship between personal, socio-economic, psychological and communication characteristics of women beneficiaries with their annual income.
3. To enlist the problems and suggestions of women beneficiaries for effective implementation of Udyogini scheme.

Materials and methods

The present study was carried out in Kolar district of Karnataka state during 2014-15. Udyogini scheme was implemented during the year 1999-2000 by Karnataka State Women Development Corporation (KSWDC) in all the five taluks (Kolar, Mulbagal, Bangarpet, Srinivaspura and Malur) of the Kolar district. The study was carried out purposively in four taluks viz., Kolar, Bangarpet, Srinivaspura and Malur of Kolar district, where maximum number of women beneficiaries were benefitted under Udyogini scheme during the years 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. Five villages were selected from each of four sampled taluks following purposive random sampling technique. From each village, six women beneficiaries were randomly selected for the study.

Based on the mean and standard deviation, the beneficiaries were classified as follows:

Category	Criteria	Annual Income (Rs.)	
		Before	After
Low	< Mean-1/2 SD	< 29,427	<84,587
Medium	Mean± ½ SD	29,427 to 36,745	84,587 to 1,30,655
High	> Mean + ½ SD	>36,745	>1,30,655

Thus, the total sample constituted 120 women beneficiaries from 20 villages of four taluks in Kolar district. Data was collected from 120 women beneficiaries using a pre-structured schedule.

Ex-post-facto (before and after) research design was followed in the present study to know the impact of Udyogini Scheme on annual income of women beneficiaries. Data was collected using a pre-tested interview schedule specially developed for the study.

In the present study, the annual income refers to the '*income realized in rupees during one year due to participation of women beneficiary in Udyogini scheme*'.

The rate of enhancement in income of each of the sampled beneficiary was worked out using the following formula:

$$\text{Rate of enhancement (\%)} = \frac{\text{Before-After}}{\text{After}} \times 100$$

Information regarding the personal, socio-economic, psychological and communication characteristics viz., education, marital status, family size, land holding cosmopolitaness, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media participation and extension participation was collected from women beneficiaries using a structured schedule with suitable scales.

Results and discussion

Categorization of Udyogini scheme women beneficiaries based on annual income

A perusal of Table 1 reveals that 40.00 per cent of the women beneficiaries belonged to medium category of annual income followed by low (39.17%) and high (20.83%) annual income in the Udyogini scheme, 38.33 per cent of the beneficiaries were observed in high category of annual income followed by medium (31.67%) and low (30.00%) levels. Chi square value of 8.83 was found significant at five per cent level of probability between the different categories of annual income. The chi-square value indicates that there is highly significant difference among the groups with respect to the annual income.

The number of beneficiaries in the low income category has decreased and the number of beneficiaries in the high income category has increased after the enrollment of women beneficiaries in the Udyogini scheme. The Udyogini scheme has helped the beneficiaries to pursue various income generating activities (agriculture, dairy, poultry, production of vermicompost, agarbathi, shikkai powder, woolen garments, pappad, jam, jelly, pickles etc.) resulting in increased annual income among the beneficiaries. Hence, more number of beneficiaries is found in the high income category after their participation in Udyogini scheme compared to the less number of beneficiaries in the high income category before their participation in the scheme. Similar findings were observed by Prakash *et al.* (2004), Vinay kumar (2008) and Jayant Roy (2012).

Table 1: Categorization of Udyogini scheme women beneficiaries based on annual income. (n=120).

Annual income (Rs.)	Women beneficiaries				X ² value
	Before		After		
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Low	47	39.17	36	30.00	8.83*
Medium	48	40.00	38	31.67	
High	25	20.83	46	38.33	
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00	

*Significant at 5% level

Table 2: Impact of Udyogini scheme on annual income of the women beneficiaries. (n=120).

Details	Annual income (Rs)		Rate of Enhancement (%)	Paired 't' value
	Before	After		
Mean	33,086	51,485	58.64	36.19**
Standard deviation	7,318	7,641	18.26	

** Significant at 1% level

Impact of Udyogini scheme on annual income of the women beneficiaries

It is evident from the findings presented in Table 2 that the mean annual income of women beneficiaries before their participation in Udyogini scheme was Rs. 33,086/ and after their participation in Udyogini scheme the annual income raised to Rs. 51,485/. The annual income of the women beneficiaries has increased by 58.64 per cent. The paired 't' test value of 36.19 was found to be significant at one per cent level of probability indicating that there exist a significant difference in the annual income of the women beneficiaries before and after their participation in Udyogini scheme. As already mentioned the beneficiaries have realized income by involving in various income generation activities utilizing the loan borrowed under Udyogini scheme, hence an increased annual income is observed among the women beneficiaries after their participation in Udyogini scheme. It could be inferred that Udyogini scheme is successful in enhancing the annual income of the women beneficiaries. Similar findings were reported by Sailaja (2002), Srikanth (2007) and Gopala (2014).

Aspect-wise income generation of Udyogini scheme women beneficiaries

The aspect-wise income generation of Udyogini scheme women beneficiaries is presented in Table 3. The mean annual income of the beneficiaries from agriculture source was Rs. 18,866/ before their participation in the Udyogini scheme and after their participation it was Rs. 25,688/. The annual income from agriculture source has increased by 36.16 per cent. The paired "t" value of 15.29 was found to be significant at one per cent level of probability.

The mean annual income of the beneficiaries from subsidiary activities (dairy, poultry and production of vermicompost) was Rs. 8,647/ before their participation in the Udyogini scheme and after their participation it was Rs. 17,080/. The annual income from subsidiary activities has increased by 97.52 per cent. The paired 't' value of 14.31 was found to be significant at one per cent level of probability.

Table 3: Aspect-wise income generation of Udyogini scheme women beneficiaries. (n=120).

Sl. No.	Source of Income	Annual Income (Rs.)		Rate of Enhancement (%)	Paired 't' value
		Before	After		
1	Agriculture	18,866	25,688	36.16	15.29**
2	Subsidiary activities	8,647	17,080	97.52	14.31**
3	Business	2,962	5,465	84.50	26.16**

** Significant at 1% level

The mean annual income of the beneficiaries from business was Rs. 2,962/ before their participation in the Udyogini scheme and after their participation it was Rs. 5,465/. The annual income from business has increased by 84.50 per cent. The paired 't' value of 26.16 was found to be significant at one per cent level of probability.

It could be observed from the above findings that there was more increase in the annual income of the women beneficiaries with respect to subsidiary activities (97.52%) compared to the annual income derived from business (84.50%), agriculture (36.16%) by the women beneficiaries.

Relationship between personal, socio-economic, psychological and communication characteristics of women beneficiaries with their annual income after participation

Table 4 present the data on the relationship between personal, socio-economic, psychological and communication characteristics of women beneficiaries with their annual income after participation. It is observed from the table that education, marital status, family size, land holding, cosmopolitaness and social participation of women beneficiaries had no significant relationship with their annual income after their participation in Udyogini scheme. Extension participation of the women beneficiaries was having significant relationship at five per cent level of probability, whereas achievement motivation and mass media participation of the women beneficiaries had significant relationship at one per cent level of probability with their

annual income after their participation in Udyogini scheme.

The beneficiaries who are self motivated to reach their goal will fix their target to increase their annual income by starting micro enterprises utilizing the loan from the Udyogini scheme. Exposure to mass media like radio, television, newspaper etc., has created awareness and encouraged to join Udyogini scheme. Publicity of Udyogini scheme by Karnataka State Women Development Corporation through mass media has helped the beneficiaries to join the Udyogini scheme and helped them to increase the annual income. Participation in extension activities (discussion meetings, demonstrations, field visits etc.) has promoted the acquisition of knowledge about micro enterprises resulting in the adoption of the enterprises realizing higher income.

Problems and suggestions of women beneficiaries for effective implementation of Udyogini scheme.

Difficult to repay the loan installment 'monthly' was the constraint faced by a majority (62.50%) of women beneficiaries (Table 5). The other constraints faced by less than half of the beneficiaries were: high interest rate on loan (46.67%), delay in realization of benefits (40.00%), difficult to meet the concerned officials (37.50%), untimely payment (33.33%), low price for the produce (27.50%), lack of need based training (21.67%), disturbance from daily household work (17.50%), exploitation by middlemen (11.67%) and lack of cooperation among family members (2.50%).

Table 4: Relationship between personal, socio-economic, psychological and communication Characteristics of women beneficiaries with their annual income after participation. (n=120).

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Correlation co-efficient 'r' value
1	Education	0.0711NS
2	Marital status	0.1024NS
3	Family size	0.0038NS
4	Land holding	0.0809NS
5	Cosmopolitaness	0.0094NS
6	Social participation	0.0947NS
7	Achievement motivation	0.4292**
8	Mass media participation	0.4185**
9	Extension participation	0.1978*

*Significant at 5% level; ** Significant at 1% level

Table 5: Constraints and suggestions of women beneficiaries. (n=120).

Sl. No.	Particulars*	Beneficiaries	
		No.	Percent
A.	Problems		
1.	Difficult to repay the loan installment monthly	75	62.50
2.	High interest rate on loan	56	46.67
3.	Delay in realization of benefits	48	40.00
4.	Difficult to meet the concerned officials	45	37.50
5.	Untimely payment	40	33.33
6.	Low price for the produce	33	27.50
7.	Lack of need based training	26	21.67
8.	Disturbance from daily household work	21	17.50
9.	Exploitation by the middlemen	14	11.67
10.	Lack of cooperation among family members	3	2.50
B.	Suggestions		
11.	Increase in the loan and subsidy amount	73	60.83
12.	Repayment of loan installment once in three months	70	58.33
13.	Reduced rate of interest on loan	57	47.5
14.	Need based training	48	40.0
15.	Procedure for availing benefits/loans to be shortened.	47	39.16
16.	Training to be conducted in the villages	31	25.84
17.	Establishment of local markets	29	24.17
18.	Elimination of middlemen	23	19.17

*Multiple responses

Increase in the loan and subsidy amount (60.83%) and repayment of loan installment once in three months (58.33%) were the suggestions expressed by majority of the women beneficiaries (Table 5). Reduced rate

of interest for the loans (47.50%), need based training (40.00%), procedure for availing benefits/loans to be shortened (39.16%), training to be conducted in the villages (25.84%), establishment of local

markets (24.17%) and elimination of middlemen (19.17%) were the other suggestions expressed by less number of women beneficiaries for effective implementation of Udyogini scheme. Similar findings were reported by Vanitha Chethan (2002) and Chethana (2005).

Conclusion

The study has revealed that there is a significant increase in the annual income of the women beneficiaries due to their participation in Udyogini scheme. There existed a significant relationship between the mass media participation and extension participation with the increase in the annual income of the women beneficiaries of Udyogini scheme. The Karnataka State Women Development Corporation through Panchayat and other local institutions should create awareness about the provisions and facilities of Udyogini scheme to the local women through mass media (radio, television, newspaper etc.) and extension programmes. The Karnataka State Women Development Corporation may also increase the loan and subsidy amount for the beneficiaries and the repayment schedule for paying the loan installment may be fixed once in three months.

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