

IMPACT OF JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**J. K. Jadav¹ and R. D. Pandya²****INTRODUCTION**

The socio-economic development of any country is directly or indirectly depend on the effectiveness of its environment management systems. As country's progress and populations increase, the land use pattern changes and the balance between various eco-system and its dwellers disturbs. Forest provides variety of goods and services of tangible and non-tangible in nature, which sustains the livelihood of the human being.

Historically, the rural economy of India was intimately related to forest resources and they have been part and parcel of our economy and culture. The use of forest resources was controlled by the community as a whole in ancient and medieval period. The basic groups had evolved a pattern for their livelihood. The agrarian and tribal groups executed certain cultural and religious practices to sustain the forest resources. These resources comprised substantial part of natural resources endowment and were used and managed by local communities in a sustainable form through their own indigenous ways on variety of cultural, social and religious ethics.

Forest produces the vital natural resources system for any country. India occupies 2.4 per cent of forest of total geographic area and 1.0 per cent of the world area which is supporting about 16.5 per cent human and 18.0 per cent of cattle population. Forest produces work as vital natural resources system for any country. The Department of Forest is managing 23.38 per cent of the total geographic area of the country.

According to the report of Forest Survey of

India - 2003, the demand for fuel wood and fodder will triple within next ten years. This very fact was realized by the Government of India in the late 80s. The national policy outlined the scope of peoples' participation in forest management. The outcome of National Commission of Agriculture and the guidelines of Ministry of Environment and Forest; the GoI had introduced Joint Forest Management Programme (JFMP) in 1990.

It aims mainly to make an appropriate agreement between people living in forest and forest department of all the state governments. At present 22 states had adopted JFMP and as a result of that 10.24 million hector of forest are being managed through 36,130 Village Forest Protection Committees (VFPC).

The JFMP is executed in 23 districts of Gujarat and Valsad and Narmada districts has shown its significance. Looking to this, the present study was undertaken to know the impact of JFMP.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was conducted in Valsad and Rajpipla forest divisions of South Gujarat. Considering the largest area of the forest and their approachable two parts of divisions; along with highest number of Village Forest Protection Committees under JFMP, the Rajpipla (East-West) and Valsad (South-North) were purposely selected for the present study. The lists of VFPCs of both the divisions were obtained from the office of the *GEER* Foundation, Forest Department, Gandhinagar. The VFPCs registered as co-operative and had completed five years of their activities under JFMP, were identified.

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Out of these, five VFPCs were randomly selected from both the forest divisions. This made 20 VFPCs. To select the 5 beneficiaries as respondents from each VFPC, a simple random sampling method was used which made 100 sample sizes for the study.

Along with overall impact, the investigator had also tried to analyze the social and economic impact of JFMP on the beneficiaries. A teacher made scale was developed for this study. Before actual use of scale, the 50 items were prepared and circulated to the experts of JFMP as well as to all the experts of extension education discipline. The technical suggestions were obtained and incorporated. Lastly, 40 statements were scrutinized and all were equally grouped under the head of social and economic impact. To measure the over all, social and economic impact of JFMP, the responses were received from the beneficiaries on three point continuum viz., often, seldom and never with score 3, 2 and 1, respectively.

Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. Keeping in view, the objective of the study, the interview schedule was prepared and beneficiaries were interviewed at their home. Later on, three categories were obtained by using mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Assessment of impact is generally regarded as an essential part of any planned intervention and is already well known and widely used in many disciplines including social science and agricultural extension. The extent of change in knowledge and adoption

reflect on social and economic aspects of an individual. In the present study an objective effort was made to assess the impact of JFMP on the beneficiaries of Valsad and Rajpipla forest divisions.

Overall Impact of JFMP

Impact is nothing but consequence occur in the beneficiaries as a result of different activities carried out under JFMP. The data regarding over all impact of JFMP on the beneficiaries is presented in table 1.

It is apparent from table 1 that the majority of the beneficiaries (77 per cent) had medium level of over all impact of JFMP, followed by 15 per cent and eight per cent of them with high and low level of over all impact, respectively.

It can be concluded that majority of the registered beneficiaries had medium level of impact of JFMP. The findings reflects the constant motivation, rigorous planning and execution of JFMP by the personnel of forest department.

Social Impact of JFMP

De and Jirli (2005) reported in his lead paper that social impact as change that occur in peoples' way of life (how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a day to day basis), their culture (shared beliefs, customs and values) and their community (its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities). This change may involve significant impacts experienced by people as result of development. The information in regards are collected and presented in table 2.

Table 1 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to their overall impact of JFM Programme.

N-100

Sr.	Level of economic impact	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low impact (Up to 80 score)	8	8.00
2	Medium impact (Between 81 to 94 score)	77	77.00
3	High impact (95 score & above)	15	15.00
Total		100	100.00

Mean =87.03

SD =7.50

Table 2 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to their level of social impact of JFM Programme
N-100

Sr.	Level of economic impact	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low social impact (Up to 36 score)	8	8.00
2	Medium social impact (Between 37 to 44 score)	77	77.00
3	High social impact (45 score & above)	15	15.00
Total		100	100.00

Mean =40.68 SD =4.24

Table 3 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to their level of economic impact of JFM Programme
N-100

Sr.	Level of economic impact	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low economic impact (Up to 40 score)	14	14.00
2	Medium economic impact (Between 41 to 47 score)	71	71.00
3	High economic impact (48 score & above)	15	15.00
Total		100	100.00

Mean=44.14 SD=3.92

Data present in table 2 that the majority of the beneficiaries of JFMP (66 per cent) had medium level of social impact, followed by 18 and 16 per cent of them had high and low level of social impact, respectively.

It can be concluded that the majority of the beneficiaries registered under JFMP had medium level of social impact of JFMP. The probable reason might be that the majority of the beneficiaries belong to medium family size.

Economic Impact of JFMP

All changes observed by planned intervention are lastly mean out in form of economic by the individual beneficiary. The activities carried out by the beneficiaries under JFMP are generating income. Economic impact provides means for implementing and development of programme. The economic impact of JFMP on the beneficiaries was assessed the finding are presented in table 3.

Data present in table 3 revealed that the majority of the beneficiaries of JFMP (71 per cent) had medium level of economic impact, followed by 15 and 14 per cent beneficiaries with high and low level of economic impact, respectively.

It can be concluded that the majority of the beneficiaries of JFMP had medium level of economic impact which indicate that the affords made by forest department to motivate the beneficiaries in functional activities of JFMP are to be strengthen through different extension teaching methods.

CONCLUSION

1. The majority of the beneficiaries had medium level of over all impact of JFMP.
2. The majority of the beneficiaries of JFMP had medium level of social impact.
3. The majority of the beneficiaries of JFMP had medium level of economic impact.

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