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B Spandana

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Dr. R Geetha Reddy

Professor & Head, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

B Prashanthi

Ph.D. Scholar Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

A study on awareness and utilization of the Telangana state government schemes by the tribal women

B Spandana, Dr. R Geetha Reddy and B Prashanthi

Abstract

The study was aimed to know the extent of awareness and utilization of schemes by the tribal women in the Medak district of Telangana state. In the present study some ongoing schemes (Kalyana lakshmi/shaadi Mubarak, Aasara pensions, Aarogya lakshmi and KCR kit/Amma Odi) were selected to study the extent of awareness among tribal women. A total of 60 tribal women were selected and majority of the respondents were belong to the 20-25 years age groups. The data was collected through personal interviews with the help of the structured schedules and was analyzed using standard statistical tools. The results revealed that Majority of the respondents (57%) benefitted from Aarogya lakshmi scheme, 30 percent were benefitted from KCR kit, 10 percent were benefitted from Kalyana lakshmi and only 3 percent were benefitted from Aasara pension scheme.

Keywords: Telangana schemes, Kalyana lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak, Aasara pensions, Aarogya lakshmi and KCR kit/Amma Odi

Introduction

Telangana is a state in the south of India. It was formed on 2nd June 2014. The state was formed as a result of the split of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state [8]. Telangana government implemented over hundreds of schemes in past 4 years for the welfare of the people in the state. These schemes are implemented by various ministries of the Telangana government. Some of schemes are funded by the central government.

Kalyana lakshmi/ shaadi Mubarak

Kalyana Lakshmi Scheme and Shaadi Mubarak was launched on 2nd October 2014 by Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao. It is a welfare scheme for providing financial assistance of ₹1,00,116 for marriages by the Government of Telangana, a novel scheme for all poor people in the state.

Objectives

- To prevent child marriages.
- To provide financial assistance

Beneficiaries of the scheme

- SC, ST, BC and minority unmarried girls
- Later to all poor families in the state.

A scheme also covers Muslims girls from poor families called as "Shaadi Mubarak".

Aasara pensions

Aasara pension was a pension scheme by the Government of Telangana. It was launched on 8th November 2014 by Chief Minister of Telangana, Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao in Kothur in Mahboobnagar district.

Objective

To protect the most vulnerable sections of society, in particular, the old and infirm; people with HIV-AIDS, widows, incapacitated weavers and toddy tappers, who have lost their means of livelihood with growing age and to support their day to day minimum needs in order to lead a life of dignity and social security.

- The new Pension scheme called *Aasara* -increasing the monthly pension from ₹200 to ₹1000 for old age persons, widows, weavers, toddy tappers and AIDS patients.

Correspondence

B Spandana

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

- The government also extended the financial assistance to ₹ 1000 per month to the poor Beedi worker under Aasara Scheme from the month of March 2015 onwards.
- The pension was increased by ₹500 to ₹1500 for disabled persons.

Aarogya lakshmi

The scheme was launched by Chief Minister of Telangana, K. Chandrashekhara Rao on 1st January 2015. The scheme is an improved version of Amrutha Hastham. Aarogya Lakshmi scheme is a nutritional program to support pregnant and lactating women by the Government of Telangana.

Objective

- To improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and to reduce malnourishment among children below six years of age.

Undernourishment and anemia among pregnant women were the important causes for high-risk deliveries and high infant mortality rate. The State government, through this scheme, is providing sufficient quantity of food with improved nutrients to below poverty line (BPL) beneficiaries.

- For the women, 200 ml of milk for 25 days per month and one egg each day will be given along with the meal.
- Children, aged between seven months to three years were provided with 16 eggs per month in addition to a 2.5 kg food packet (Baalamrutham).
- For children aged between three to six years, one egg per day in addition to rice, dal, vegetables and snacks are supplied.

During 2016–17, the benefits of this scheme reached 9,45,341 children in the age group of seven months to three years, 5,25,439 children in the age group of three to six years, and 3,69,677 pregnant and lactating women. Apart from this 35,700 malnourished children are given special care under this programme.

KCR kit/Amma Odi

The flagship scheme was launched on June 2nd 2017 by the Chief Minister of Telangana, Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao, with an aim to improve the health of new born child and mother.

Objectives

- To promote institutional deliveries in the State
- To reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)
- To provide monetary support for women who lost their livelihood due to pregnancy
- To encourage the birth of girls to improve the Child Sex Ratio (CSR)

Eligibility

- The scheme is eligible for women who give birth at government hospitals, for a maximum of two deliveries.

The mother upon delivery is provided with a KCR Kit consisting of 16 items necessary to keep newborn babies (neonates) warm and hygienic. They are sufficient for three months. The items includes: clothes, quality baby soaps, baby oil, baby powder, mosquito nets, toys, napkins, and diapers.

Amma Odi

The scheme was launched after the success of KCR Kit by Chief Minister of Telangana, K Chandrashekhara Rao on 18 January 2018. An exclusive, 102 call number was used for this service.

For pregnant woman across the state. Under the scheme, a pregnant woman can use free 102 service van to visit the hospital and dropped off at no cost. It can be used any number of times as necessary. After the delivery, the mother along with the new born were dropped at home after discharge from that hospital.

Financial assistance

- The mother will also be provided with financial assistance of ₹12,000 (₹13,000 for a girl child) to compensate for the loss of work by the women during the pregnancy and post natal period.
- This amount will be provided in installment with the last two installments paid after vaccinating the child.
- The money is sent as direct cash transfer to individual aadhar-lined accounts of pregnant women in the State.

The introduction of KCR Kits scheme has increased the deliveries in government hospitals from 31% to 50% and so far 4,441,554 women benefitted with KCR Kit scheme by receiving financial benefits as per scheduled tranches of ANC, Delivery and Immunization. A total of 241 Ammavodi (102) Vehicles have been introduced to pickup and drop back the pregnant women at the time of ANC, delivery and immunization.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Tuniki village, Medak district by using ex-post facto research design. A total of 60 tribal women were selected by purposive sampling method. The data from the respondents was collected through personal interviews with the help of the structured schedules and analyzed using standard statistical tools.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Age of the respondents N=60

S. No	Age (in years)	F	%
1	20-25	30	50
2	26-30	18	30
3	31-43	12	20
	Total	60	100.0

Table 1 clearly indicated that half (50%) of the women belonged to 20-25 years age group followed by the 26-30 (30%) and 31-43 (20%). The above table depicts that young age women were higher compared to the other two age groups. This might be due to the reason that they got married in childhood.

Table 2: Education of the respondents, N=60

	Percentage (%)
Illiterates	57
Primary	17
Upper primary	13
Degree	13

It was observed from the table 2, more than half (57%) of the women were illiterates followed by Primary education (17%), Upper primary (13%) and Degree (13%).

Table 3: Awareness of the schemes, N=60

	Yes	No
KCR kit	60	0
Kalyanalakshmi/ shaadi mubarak	60	0
Aarogya lakshmi	60	0
Aasara pensions	60	0

From the above table it can be observed that all the respondents were known about the schemes.

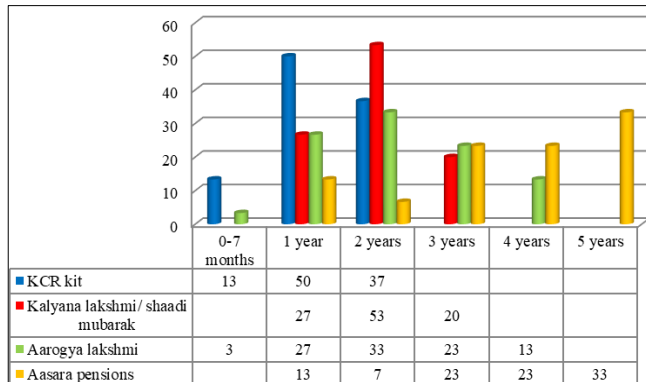


Table 4: Awareness of schemes in years

Most of the respondents knew about these schemes (KCR kit, Kalyana lakshmi, Aarogya lakshmi and Aasara pensions) since last 1 to 3 years because these schemes are implemented in last 4 years.

Table 5: Information about the schemes

Information	%
Anganwadi teacher & ANM	20
Gram Panchayat	30
Neighbors	20
Relatives	17
Media (TV, Radio and News paper)	13

All the schemes have been implemented in their gram panchayat and everyone knows about the schemes through anganwadi teachers and ANM workers, gram panchayat meetings, neighbors', relatives and through Media such as T.V, radio and news papers.

Table 6: Benefitted from the schemes

	Frequency	%
KCR kit	18	30
Kalyana lakshmi/ shaadi Mubarak	6	10
Aarogya lakshmi	34	57
Aasara pensions	2	3

More than half of the respondents (57%) benefitted from Aarogya lakshmi scheme, 30 percent were benefitted from KCR kit, 10 percent were benefitted from Kalyana lakshmi and only 3 percent were benefitted from Aasara pension scheme.

Dr. Mohammad Abdul Malik and Dr. Jagan Kanthi (2018) [1] revealed that Kalyana Lakshmi scheme has made positive impact on child marriages in which child marriages were decreased due to Kalyana Lakshmi Scheme. Because to get

cash benefit under Kalyana Lakshmi Scheme bride should attain minimum marriage age.

Basa Madhu (2017) [2] revealed that PMJDY performance in Telangana state was effective and it's covered 84% of rural households and 100% of urban households into financial inclusion. Many of account holders were benefitted with accounts like as ASARA pensions, LPG subsidies.

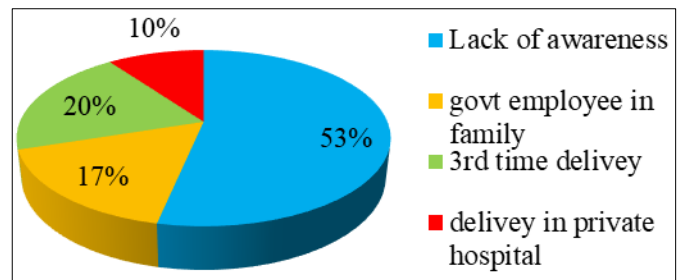


Fig 1: Reasons for not benefitted from the schemes

Half of the respondents (53%) were not benefitted because of lack of information about the scheme and 17%, 20% and 10% were not benefitted because of Govt employees in the family, 3rd time pregnancy and delivered in the private hospitals respectively.

Table 7: Opinion on the schemes

	Good (F)	%	Bad (F)	%
Opinion	52	87	8	13

87 percent of the respondents felt these schemes were good where as 13 percent of the respondents felt that they are not satisfied with these schemes because of lack of support, response from the officers and also due to the lack of sufficient food for pregnant women and children in Aarogya Lakshmi scheme.

Conclusion

- Finally it can be concluded from the present study that all the respondents were aware about these schemes (KCR kit, Kalyana lakshmi, Aarogya lakshmi and Aasara pensions) since last 1 to 3 years because these schemes are implemented in last 4 years.
- Thirty percent of the respondents got information about the schemes through gram panchayat meetings, anganwadi teachers and ANM workers (20%), neighbors'(20%), relatives(17%) and through Media such as T.V, radio and news papers (13%).
- More than half of the respondents (57%) benefitted from Aarogya lakshmi scheme, 30% were benefitted from KCR kit, 10% were benefitted from Kalyana lakshmi and only 3% were benefitted from Aasara pension scheme.
- Majority (87%) of the respondents felt these schemes were good where as 13% of the respondents felt they are not satisfied with these schemes because of lack of support and response from the officers and no sufficient food for pregnant women and children in Aarogya lakshmi scheme.

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