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A study on demographic profile and awareness of the rural women beneficiaries of selected government schemes in Telangana state

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to study the demographic profile and awareness of rural women beneficiaries of selected schemes in Telangana state. A total sample of 120 rural women beneficiaries was selected through simple random sampling method. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. The study was conducted by using a structured interview schedule. The data was analyzed using frequency and percentage. In the study, the results revealed that majority (78.33%) were belonged to 18-35 years age group, with high school education (30.00%), most of them were housewives (57.50%), highest 44.17 per cent were with Rs. 60,000-1.5 lakhs of annual income, majority of the women were married (83.33%), most of them were with nuclear family type (68.33%), highest 74.67 per cent of the respondents were belonged to Hindu religion, more than half (58.33%) were belonged to OBC caste and highest 46.67 percent of them had one child. Level of awareness about Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak was high (100.00%), for aasara pension it was medium (80.00%), for KCR Kit was high (96.67%) and in case of Aarogya Lakshmi it was medium (76.67%).

Keywords: Telangana government schemes, awareness, Kalyana Lakshmi / Shaadi Mubarak, Aasara pensions, Aarogya lakshmi and KCR kit

1. Introduction

India is a nation of villages, and its growth is inextricably linked to the development of the people who live in rural areas, which account for more than two-thirds of the population. India is primarily an agricultural region, with agriculture being the most common occupation. As a consequence, the Indian government and state governments have put a strong focus on rural development. Since pre-independence, the Indian government has initiated a number of developmental activities. The key goals of these initiatives are to increase the quality of life for rural people and to elevate their status. Some schemes have been launched by the Union Government of India and state governments to support rural women. The main goal of these initiative is to increase women's social and economic status, as well as to provide the necessary support resources to allow them to engage in income-generating activities. Gender discrimination and disparity are important features of rural society in India. The salient features of rural women's marginalization are low levels of literacy, poor health status, low purchasing power, low participation rates in the formal economy and low levels of authorization in the family and in the society. (Spandana *et al.*, 2019) ^[1].

As part of the nation's growth, the Telangana government has introduced a variety of initiatives for rural women, farmers, and farm families, among several other things. From the introduced schemes I had chosen 4 schemes which are mainly focusing on rural women.

- Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak (K. L / S. M)
- Aasara pensions (A. P)
- KCR Kit (K. K)
- Arogya Lakshmi (A. L)

The profile characteristic of women plays a major to increase the awareness of scheme. By taking the above points from the situation the study was conducted to find out the profile characteristic of rural women and their awareness on government schemes in Telangana state.

2. Materials and Methods

In the present study Ex-post facto research design was followed. Karimnagar, Jangaon and Nalgonda districts was selected randomly where all the schemes are implementing. From the selected districts, randomly 3 mandals were selected and total of 6 villages were selected randomly. From each village 20 respondents were selected, 5 for each scheme and

thus making a total of 120 respondents were selected for the present study. An interview schedule was used by doing suitable modifications. The data was organized, tabulated and classified using appropriate statistical tools like frequency and percentage.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of rural women according to their profile characters n=120

S. No	Category	Selected Programmes								n=120	
		K. L / S. M (n1=30)		A.P (n2=30)		K. K (n3=30)		A. L (n4=30)			
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Age (in years)										
a.	18-35	30	100.00	4	13.33	30	100.00	30	100.00	94	78.33
b.	36-55	0	0.00	15	50.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	15	12.50
c.	above 56	0	0	11	36.67	0	0	0	0	11	9.17
2.	Educational Level										
a.	Illiterate	7	23.33	17	56.67	0	0	0	0	24	20.00
b.	Middle School	0	0	7	23.33	1	3.33	3	10.00	11	9.17
c.	High School	8	26.67	4	13.33	11	36.67	13	43.34	36	30.00
d.	Intermediate	4	13.33	2	6.66	7	23.33	7	23.33	20	16.66
e.	Graduation	11	36.67	0	0	11	36.67	7	23.33	29	24.17
3.	Occupation										
a.	Housewife	12	40.00	8	26.67	24	80	25	83.33	69	57.50
b.	Agriculture	5	16.67	11	36.67	1	3.34	5	16.67	22	18.33
c.	Agricultural Labour	8	26.67	6	20.00	1	3.33	0	0	15	12.50
d.	Business	2	6.67	5	16.66	1	3.33	0	0	8	6.67
e.	Private job	3	10.00	0	0	3	10.00	0	0	6	5.00
4.	Annual Income										
a.	Below Rs. 60,000/-	12	40.00	15	50.00	10	33.33	13	43.33	50	41.67
b.	Rs. 60,000- 1.5 lakh	9	30.00	12	40.00	17	56.67	15	50.00	53	44.17
c.	Rs.1.5 lakhs- 2lakhs	8	26.67	3	10.00	3	10.00	2	6.67	16	13.33
d.	Above 2 lakhs	1	3.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.83
5.	Marital status										
a.	Married	30	100	17	56.67	30	100	29	96.67	106	83.33
b.	Widow	0	0	13	43.33	0	0	1	3.33	14	11.67
6.	Family type										
a.	Nuclear family	23	76.67	16	53.33	18	60.00	25	83.33	82	68.33
b.	Joint family	7	23.33	14	46.67	12	40.00	5	16.67	38	31.67
7.	Religion										
a.	Hindu	15	50.00	27	90	27	90	20	66.67	89	74.67
b.	Muslim	13	43.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	10.83
c.	Christian	2	6.66	3	10	3	10	10	33.33	18	15.00
8.	Caste										
a.	OC	6	20.00	13	43.33	6	20.00	5	16.67	30	25.00
b.	OBC	23	76.67	13	43.33	15	50.00	19	63.33	70	58.33
c.	SC	1	3.33	4	13.33	4	13.33	6	20	15	12.50
d.	ST	0	0	0	0	5	16.67	0	0	5	4.17
9.	Number of Children										
a.	None	5	16.67	2	6.67	0	0	0	0	7	5.83
b.	One	18	60.00	4	13.33	21	70.00	13	43.33	56	46.67
c.	Two	7	23.33	12	40.00	9	30.00	13	43.33	41	34.67
d.	Three	0	0	12	40.00	0	0	4	13.34	16	13.33

n1: Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubharak, n2: Aasara Pension, n3: KCR Kit, n4: Aarogya Lakshmi

Age

From table no. 1 it could be concluded that more than half of the respondents (78.33%) were belonged to the age group of 18-35 years followed by 36-55 years (12.50%) and above 56 years (09.17%). The reason might be due to most of the girls are getting married between 18-35 years of age and having their child.

Education

From table 1 it could be depicted that highest percent of respondents (30.00%) were educated up to high school

followed by graduation (24.17%), illiterates (20.00%), intermediate (16.66%) and middle school (9.17%). The reason might be due rural area, in villages they had up to high school education.

Occupation

It could be clearly seen from the table no. 1 that more than half (57.50%) of the respondents were housewives followed by agriculture (18.33%), Agricultural Labour (12.50%), Business (6.67%) and Private Job (05.00%). The reason might be due to majority of the rural women were married recently

and having children for this reason, they are staying at home and taking care of the children and house.

Annual Income

It is clearly evident from the table no. 1 that highest percent (44.17%) were had annual income of Rs. 60,000- 1.5 lakh followed by below Rs. 60,000 (41.67%), Rs. 1.5 lakhs- 2 lakhs (13.33%) and Above 2 lakhs (0.83%). the possible reason might be the occupation like housewife and agriculture.

Marital status

It could be revealed from the table no. 1 that most of them (83.33%) were Married followed by 11.67 per cent were Widow. The results are in line with the study conducted by Bartwal *et al.* (2016) [2].

Family Type

Table 1 indicates that majority (68.33%) of the respondents were belonged to nuclear family followed by joint (31.67%). This may be due to the joint family tradition of the system changed to nuclear families because of the modern economic

& social development in society.

Religion

It could be indicated from the table 1 that majority (74.67%) of the respondents were Hindus followed by 15 per cent were Christian and Muslim (10.83%). The similar results were reported by Reshmi *et al.* (2007) [3].

Caste

From table no. 1 it could be concluded that more than half of the respondents (58.33%) were belonged to OBC followed by OC (25.00%), SC (12.50%) and ST (4.17%). These results were supported by Unnikrishnan *et al.* (2020) [4].

Number of Children

It is evident from the table 1 that highest percent (46.67%) were had one child followed by 34.67 per cent were had two children, three children (13.33%) and none (5.83%). The reason might be increased awareness by different national and international programmes for controlling the population growth.

Table 2: Distribution of rural women according to their Levels of Awareness on selected schemes n=120

S. No	Levels of Awareness on Selected Programmes Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Munharak (n1=30)	F	%
1.	Low (0-7)	0	0.00
2.	Medium (8-15)	0	0.00
3.	High (16-23)	30	100.00
Aasara Pension (n2=30)			
1.	Low (0-6)	5	16.67
2.	Medium (7-13)	24	80.00
3.	High (14-20)	1	3.33
KCR kit (n3=30)			
1.	Low (0-7)	0	0.00
2.	Medium (8-15)	1	3.33
3.	High (16-23)	29	96.67
Aarogya Lakshmi (n4=30)			
1.	Low (0-5)	0	0.00
2.	Medium (6-11)	23	76.67
3.	High (12-17)	7	23.33

n1: Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubharak, n2: Aasara Pension, n3: KCR Kit, n4: Aarogya Lakshmi

It is clearly seen from the table 2. Levels of Awareness about Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubharak are high (100.00%) per cent. All respondents had awareness about the scheme, the possible reasons for this is their family economic status and need of the money for girl's marriage and also the government giving more publicity to people so that it will be benefit for the bride's family. These results are in inconformity with Reshmi *et al.* (2007) [3].

It could be clearly evident from the table 2. Levels of Awareness about Aasara Pension are medium (80.00%) followed by Low (16.67%) and 3.33 per cent of the respondents had High level of awareness. The awareness about the programme is medium, the reason for this might be due to the scheme is giving financial assistance to old age people, beedi workers, widows and physically disabled and other family members are doing the application process and the related documents which are necessary to apply to avail the benefit. This is in accordance to the findings of Bartwal *et al.* (2016) [2].

It could be revealed from the table 2. Levels of Awareness about KCR Kit are high (96.67%) followed by medium (3.33%) level of awareness. Majority of the respondents had

awareness about the scheme, the reason for this is popularity of the scheme in rural areas and its benefits like kit with necessary items, monetary assistance for the new born. For baby girl it is Rs. 13,000/- and for baby boy 12,000 rupees. The finding derived support from that of Unnikrishnan *et al.* (2020) [4].

It could be clearly evident from the table 2. Levels of Awareness about Aarogya Lakshmi are medium (76.67%) followed by 23.33 per cent of the respondents had High level of awareness. Majority of the respondents had full awareness about the scheme but they had medium awareness about the department which is providing this scheme and also about other services under this scheme. The findings of the present study were in agreement with the study of Patil and Kulkarni (2016) [5].

4. Conclusion

In conclusion the demographic profile of the rural women, like age, education, occupation, annual income, marital status, family type, religion, caste and number of children were had an impact on levels of awareness of schemes. Respondents with high education level had more awareness, housewives

are also high level of awareness about the schemes, annual income with below Rs. 60,000/- and Rs. 60,000-1.5 lakh had high awareness because of the low income they were benefited from the selected schemes.

5. References

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