



A study on women welfare program through sustainable development of women in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Women's empowerment is a crucial process aimed at granting women access to and control over material and informational resources. This concept, first articulated in 1985 by Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), empowers individuals, groups, and communities to take charge of their circumstances, thereby enhancing their quality of life. Women constitute an essential part of the labor force, and their economic involvement is intricately linked to overall development. The level of women's integration into economic development serves as an indicator of economic independence and social status. Women's empowerment encompasses equipping rural women with the necessary skills to undertake various tasks independently or collectively, granting them improved access to and control over societal resources. Empowerment is recognized as a pivotal strategy for enhancing the well-being of individuals, families, communities, as well as governmental and non-governmental agencies. It is crucial to continually refine women's empowerment strategies to ensure they are effective and yield tangible results. Notably, income earned by impoverished women tends to be prioritized for essential life needs, underscoring the significance of women as focal points in development efforts. When women work together in groups, it fosters a newfound sense of solidarity and cooperation, contributing to their economic independence.

Keywords: Women welfare, sustainable, Approximately

Introduction

India, with its staggering population of over one billion people, grapples with the complex challenge of poverty and gender inequality. Approximately 26 percent of its populace lives below the poverty line, based on national minimum calorie intake standards of 2,400 calories per person in rural areas and 2,100 calories in urban areas. This poverty is unevenly distributed across the country, with pronounced regional disparities, notably between northern and southern India, where poverty concentrations are more pronounced in the north. Moreover, income inequality has been on the rise, increasing by 10 percent in the 2000s.

Furthermore, considering broader indicators such as education and health, as measured by the UNDP Human Development Index, the poverty rate in India becomes even more distressing, with 32 percent of households experiencing poverty in 2003. However, these statistics alone fail to capture the full extent of vulnerability, including factors contributing to the risk of falling in and out of poverty.

Vulnerability in India emanates from multiple sources, including shock-induced poverty, stemming from factors such as income loss and asset destruction at the household level, and idiosyncratic vulnerability due to elements like disease epidemics, healthcare expenses, death-related costs, theft, violence, and the consequences of globalization, such as job loss and inflation. Entire communities also face covariate vulnerability, encompassing threats like floods and droughts.

The marginalized status of women in Indian society plays a pivotal role in exacerbating these structural issues. In many regions of India, women endure neglect, discrimination, domestic responsibilities, caring for siblings, and often engage in labor outside the home. From a young age, girls face the specter of inadequate attention, nourishment,

medical care, and education. As they reach adolescence, they become vulnerable to forced marriage, child labor, or prostitution. Following marriage, their status frequently deteriorates further, subjecting them to institutionalized subservience, loneliness, mental anguish, harassment, and even violence or murder.

This dire situation of women in India contributes to the concept of "missing women," a term coined by Amartya Sen, referring to women who should be alive but aren't due to social disadvantages. Disturbing statistics highlight the extent of gender bias, including women earning only 34 percent of men's wages, adult literacy ratios for women at 70 percent of those for men, and disparities in primary and high school enrollment ratios.

The unequal allocation of resources, lower wage rates, and lack of inheritance rights further compound these disparities, resulting in poorer life outcomes for women compared to men. These gender biases extend beyond the household, affecting women's legal and normative entitlements to land ownership and property exchange, leading to market failures related to the prices they receive for their labor and produce. Additionally, women's social relationships within their households and communities are influenced by these biases, as are their claims on the state for welfare and other benefits.

In addition to these challenges, significant disparities persist between men and women in terms of their access to assets, control over their labor, status, training opportunities, and access to resources for income generation activities. While there have been some improvements in the past decade, overcoming the deeply entrenched institutionalized disadvantages faced by Indian women remains an ongoing struggle.

In this context, women's empowerment and welfare programs play a critical role in addressing these issues, bridging gender disparities, and improving the well-being of

women in India. These programs aim to empower women economically, socially, and politically, providing them with the tools and opportunities needed to break free from the cycle of poverty and discrimination. Sustainable development hinges on an equitable distribution of resources for both present and future generations, making gender equality a fundamental component of this pursuit. Women's empowerment is a key driver for achieving sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability, as it fosters a balanced approach to development that benefits all segments of society.

Navaratnalu

Here are the nine Navaratnalu welfare schemes.

YSR Rythu Bharosa

The YSRCP promises to offer Rs 50,000 financial assistance to farmers. Starting second year, each farmer family would be given Rs 12,500 per year, in addition to zero-interest loans and free borewells. Cold storages and food processing units in every constituency are among a list of benefits promised to the farmers.

Benefits to the citizens

- Every farmer to be provided Rs 50000 financial assistance. Crop sowing farmers to get Rs 12500 per year.
- Farmers need not worry about crop insurance. Government to pay crop insurance premium on behalf of farmers.
- Interest free Crop loans to be provided to farmers.
- Free bore-wells to be provided to farmers.
- 9 hours Free electricity during day time for agriculture purpose.
- Aqua culture farmers to get electricity @ Rs 1.50 per unit.
- Rs 3000 crores corpus fund allotted to prices stabilization. Rates to be declared before crop sowing.
- Farmers to be assured Minimum support price.
- Rs 4000 crores allotted for Natural disaster Relief fund.
- Every constituency to be provided with cold storages, go-downs. Food processing units to be established where necessary.
- Cooperative sector will be revived during the first year. Every dairy farmer who participates in a cooperative dairy from the second year onwards gets Rs. 4 bonus per liter.
- Toll Tax and Road Tax to be waived off for Agriculture Tractors.
- Rs 7 Lakh YSR Bhima to be provided to the family of farmer for accidental death or suicide. Act will be passed in the assembly to ensure amount does not land into the hands of loaner and government will stand by the deceased farmer family.

In the previous financial year, the government has already deposited Rs. 4.40 lakh crore into 54 lakh farmer's accounts. Other than the financial assistance of Rs 3900 crore spent in the 1st instalment, another Rs 2,000 crore is being provided by the government to the farmers.

Fee Reimbursement

Scholarships are of great importance to those students unable to pay their fee due to financial burden, so this scheme provides full fee reimbursement benefits to approximately 14 lakhs students of the state. Also, tuition fees, mess charges, hostel charges will be exempted from all of the students who excel in the studies as per the reports of their academics which will be provided by their hostels or by their college itself. Education expenditure will be borne for poor. Rs. 20,000 per student per annum to be provided in addition to fees reimbursement, boarding and lodging.

As mentioned above, many incentives are provided to all of the beneficiaries who enrolled themselves in the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme as announced by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh state.

1. The students will be given Rs 20,000/- per year.
2. Students studying from Welfare hostels will be exempted from mess charges.
3. Money incentives are as follows-
 - Rs 15,000 for Polytechnic students
 - Rupee 10,000 for ITI Students
 - Rs 20,000 for Graduate Degree and other courses.

This scheme ensures that no student remains inaccessible to education due to his/her financial status and one benefit that has captured all of the good will of Andhra Pradesh people is the free education being provided to all beneficiaries who pass the eligibility criteria of the scheme. Also, monetary incentives are being provided every year to all the beneficiaries.

Arogyasri

The Arogyasri scheme would be applicable to all medical treatments of above Rs 1,000. Regardless of the location of the hospital, all medical expenses would be borne by the government.

AP government provides free treatment for specific illness to the eligible patients in any hospital in the state and the country. If the hospital bill is more than Rs.1000, the eligible ArogyaSri card holders can avail their free medical services. The objective of the scheme is to provide good quality medical treatment to BPL People for specific diseases from the renowned hospitals. All the BPL families identified by BPL ration card issued by Civil Supplies Department are eligible. All the people whose photo and name appear on Health Card / BPL (White, Annapurna and Anthyodaya Anna Yojana, RAP and TAP) ration card and suffering from identified diseases are eligible for availing treatment under the scheme.

Benefits of AP Arogyasri Scheme

Health Coverage of Rs 2.5 Lakh will be provided.

- It is a cashless treatment Scheme
- It will reduce death ratio from the state
- 1040 type of diseases will be covered
- It is a 100% government-funded scheme
- 24 hours call centre facility under the scheme (Toll-Free 104)

The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh had given top priority to public health. The annual family income to get the benefit of YSR Arogyasri was pegged at Rs. 5 lakh and the number of treatments covered under it was increased to 2450. As promised, the government had introduced YSR Bima under which poor families will get the insurance benefit if they lose the breadwinner.

Impact on Health Scenario in the States

- Early Recognition of Diseases: As the scheme progressed the pre-existing load of diseases is coming down, particularly in relation to the high-end diseases in cardiology, neurosurgery, gynaecology and obstetrics etc.,
- Improvement in documentation and regulatory effect on Hospitals: The emplacement procedure, defined diagnostic and treatment protocols, capturing of admission notes, daily clinical notes, operation notes, discharge summary and uploading of diagnostic reports including films, WebEx recording of Angio and Laparoscopic procedures and other photographic evidences have resulted in profound improvement of medical documentation in the State and regulatory effect on the hospitals.
- Improvement in quality of services: Continued monitoring of the services both online and in the field by the elaborated field mechanism coupled with disciplinary action against erring hospitals is greatly contributing to the quality of treatment under the scheme.

Jalayagnam

Under this scheme, lakhs of families would be benefited by the irrigation projects. Completion of Polavaram project on a war footing is promised.

Jalayagnam or Jala Yagnam, (water worship), is a water management program in India. It has been implemented by Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, India, Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy as an election promise to the farmers of the state to bring 8.2 million acres (8.2 million acres) under irrigation in five years.

The concept of Jalayagnam was aimed at providing a permanent solution to drought and floods. The Government always feels that if the farmer is happy then the State will flourish. This project has the capacity to redraw the contours of the State itself. Under this scheme, lakhs of families would be benefited by the irrigation projects. Completion of Polavaram project on a war footing is promised.

With the inspiration of his father Y.S.R., Jagan Mohan Reddy promised to the people of Andhra Pradesh, he wants to re-introduce the Jalayagnam Scheme in Andhra Pradesh. Under Navaratnalu, "Jala Kala – Free Borewells" is aimed at utilizing the available groundwater Resources for the improvement of livelihoods of the farmers and thereby improve the GSDP under primary sector.

The scheme is providing free of cost borewells for all of the ranches of the Andhra Pradesh state. A lot of farmers highly depend upon the natural water resources for their irrigation of the field but because there are high draught statistics it is not possible for the farmers to use the natural groundwater resources for their irrigation. Borewells will provide to all of the farmers free of cost so that they can continue their practices and their income is also increase because of the large crop.

Ban on Alcohol

The YSRCP promises to put in place a ban on sale of alcohol across the State because Liquor is one of the main reasons for dispute in families due to which human relations are collapsing. Sale of alcohol will be banned in 3 stages and availability of alcohol use to be limited to 5-star hotels

only. The plan is to ban its sales totally, but in a phased manner. If all goes to plan, the state should be liquor-free by 2024, well in time for the next legislative assembly election. Andhra Pradesh will join only four other Indian states- Gujarat, Mizoram, Bihar and Nagaland- in banning the bottle.

Phases of Ban

- Jagan Reddy's plan is to introduce prohibition in a phased manner. In the first step, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken over retail sales, reduced the number of liquors vends from 4,380 to 3,500 across the state and made the state-owned AP State Beverages Corporation the sole supplier from October.
- To gradually cut availability and consumption, liquor shops will stay open from 10 am to 9 pm only, which will be reduced progressively to just a few hours a day. Official estimates of consumption suggest that liquor sales in the state is already down 18 per cent since Reddy came to power in May end.
- A new bar licensing policy is to come into force from when their number will come down from the current 798--excluding those in star hotels and the micro-breweries. The bars will be allowed to stay open from 11 am and 7 pm. Apart from reducing business hours, the license fee will also see a big hike

Amma Vodi

With a view to encourage the families with school-going children, the YSRCP promises to provide Rs 15,000 towards assistance to all the mothers who send their children to school.

Government of A.P has announced "Amma Vodi" for providing financial assistance to each mother who is below poverty line household, irrespective of any differences to enable her to educate her children from class I to XII in all recognized schools/junior colleges. Under this scheme financial assistance of Rs. 15,000/- given to mothers for children education annually. With a view to encourage the families with school going children and to reduce the dropout ratio in schools, the government promises to provide Rs 15,000 towards assistance to all the mothers who send their children to school. Student enrolment has increased by 30% in the 2019-2020 academic year after the announcement of the scheme.

The initial rule of 75% mandatory attendance has been waived to encourage mothers to send their children to school. Orphans and street children studying in schools through voluntary organizations have been covered under the scheme and the money will be given to the organizations. The promised aid of ₹15000 is directly deposited in the beneficiaries' savings bank accounts in January every year until the child completes class 12.

Last year around 42 lakh beneficiaries have got the benefit of Amma Vodi scheme and this year the number has increased to 44.48 lakh. In the fiscal budget, the state government has allocated Rs 22,604 crore to the education sector out of Rs 2,24,789.18 crore. In the year 2020 budget, the government has sanctioned Rs 17,971 crore to the education sector has been increased in the budget for 2021. Out of this amount Rs. 6,107 crores have sanctioned for the Amma Vodi scheme. T

YSR Asara

All loans pertaining to the women's co-operative societies would be waived. In addition, zero-interest loans would be Issued YSR Cheyutha Through YSR Cheyutha, the YSRCP intends to support all women from SC, ST, BC and minority communities, who are aged above 45.

AP YSR Cheyutha Scheme being execute under Women government assistance leading body of Andhra Pradesh. Any denied network ladies belonging to these communities of SC, ST, OBC, or Minority and whose age is between 45 to 60 years may profit from the advantages of the AP YSR Cheyutha Scheme. This will be a great initiative for all of the women belonging to the minority community.

Features of YSR Asara Scheme

- By the implementation of this scheme financial help will be provided to needy women who are living in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh is going to give SHG loan to women who belong to the minority community.
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh have decided to spend 25,383 crore for this scheme in the next four years.
- Around 900000 beneficiaries will get benefit from this scheme
- YSR Cheyutha to be provided to BC, SC, ST, Minority women.
- Rs. 75000 to be granted after first year to women above 45 years age of BC, SC, ST and minorities through various corporations as YSR Cheyutha.

Pedalandariki illu

In five years, the YSRCP promises to build 25 lakh homes for the poor.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's padayatra promise of providing pakka houses to the poor. The Chief Minister has started the construction of Pedalandariki illu vat Komaragiri layout of U Kothapalli mandal in East Godavari district on 25th December 2020. On this programme state government takes initiative to commencement of construction of 15.60 lakh houses in the first phase. In addition to these, the government also distributes sale agreements for 2.60 lakh TIDCO houses.

For the first time in the country, a house site patta is being given for just one rupee and government takes initiative to registered in the name of a woman member of the household. The beneficiaries are given 1.5 cents in rural areas or one cent in urban areas.

So far 30,75,755 beneficiaries have been identified for the scheme, of which 23,37,067 will be given houses in over 17,000 developed 'YSR Jagananna Colonies'. About 4,86,820 people who are already living in unauthorized sites, being legalized and the remaining 2,51,868 will be allocated TIDCO houses.

Pensionla Pempu

The eligibility age criteria of 65 years for the pensions would be reduced to 60 years. Senior citizens aged above 60 would be given Rs 2,000 while the physically challenged would be given a pension of Rs 3,000.

Door delivery of pensions under the YSR Pension Kanuka scheme one of the major initiatives of the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The idea of delivering pensions at the doorstep of

beneficiaries through the village and ward volunteers was mooted by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. This is another step in the implementation of the Navaratnalu, which were part of the YSRC election manifesto.

Instead of the beneficiaries going to the pension disbursement offices, the volunteers visit the beneficiaries and complete the formalities. The pension has been increased to Rs 2,250 from Rs 1,000 and the volunteers have been equipped with smartphones with biometric information of the beneficiaries to deliver the pension at their doorstep without any hassle. While the government has earmarked Rs 15,675.20 crore for the year towards the program

The existing eligibility criteria for sanction of pensions under the scheme is

- A monthly pension of Rs.2250/- is provided to Toddy Tappers, weavers, Single women, Fishermen, ART (PLHIV) Persons. Traditional Cobblers
- Disabled persons, Transgender and Dappu Artists receive a monthly pension of Rs.3,000/-
- People affected with chronic kidney disease who are undergoing Dialysis in both Government and network hospitals receive Rs.10,000/- per month.
- The enhanced scale of pension came into effect from June, 2019 payable from 1st July, 2019 onwards.

About District

The district derives its name Tirupati is its headquarters town. It is located between the Northern Latitudes of 130 21' 54" and 140– 30' 40" and between the Eastern Longitudes 790 5' 42" and 800 4' 10". It is bounded on the east by Bay of Bengal, on the west by Annamayya and Chittoor Districts of Andhra Pradesh, on the North by SPSR Nellore and Annamayya Districts of Andhra Pradesh and on the south by Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu State. In respect of area, it is with an area of 9174 Square Kilometers which accounts for 5.63 percent of the total area of the state. The general elevation of the mountainous part of the district is 2500 feet above sea level. The Chennai & Bangalore cities are located in 150 Kms. and 250 Kms. respectively to Tirupati Town. The district has good business and marketing for Groundnut, Paddy and Other Products.

The Eastern Ghats are pre-dominant in the Western Region and they gradually bend towards the sacred hills of Tirupati, passing through Chandragiri and entering into Nellore District.

Boundaries of the District

The district is bounded by the following places and features on all the four sides.

East: Bay of Bengal

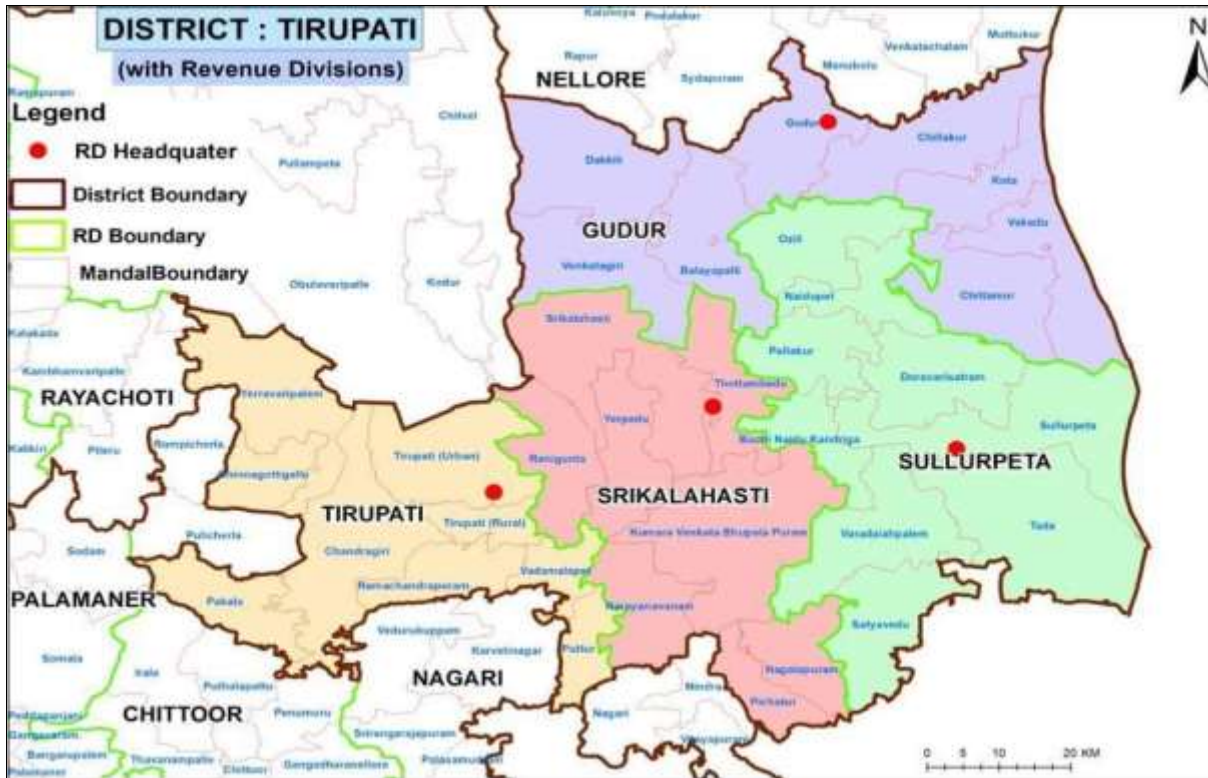
West: Annamayya and Chittoor Districts

North: SPSR Nellore and Annamayya Districts

South: Chittoor District and Tamilnadu State

Administrative Divisions

There are 4 Revenue Divisions with Divisional headquarters at Tirupati, Srikalahasti, Sullurpet and Gudur and 34 Revenue Mandal's with 33 Mandal Parishads also existing in the district. A total of 784 Gram Panchayats are in position comprising all notified & non – notified Gram Panchayats.



Objectives

The objectives of the present study are:

1. to study the women participation and implementation of Welfare Programmes;
2. benefits from welfare programmes to study the women economic development of the respondents
3. to study the Problem faced by the different programmes;

Data Collection Techniques

Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. Secondary data was collected from publications of Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, dailies etc. Primary data was collected through interview schedules and both participant observation and non-participant observation techniques.

Field Area

The field work was conducted in fourteen villages spread over Two Mandal's (Blocks) of Tirupati district in Andhra Pradesh. The villages selected are as follows:

- Ramachandra Puram Mandal : 2 villages
- Vadamalapet Mandal : 2 villages

Sampling

The study was conducted by selecting 100 respondents from the two Mandal's as shown below:

- Ramachandra. Puram Mandal - 50
- Vadamalapet Mandal - 50

The sample was selected by following stratified random sampling method. The sample was selected from different Mandal's of the respondents from all the below the poverty line benefitted from welfare programmes.

Table 1: Releasing the Welfare programmes Mandal Wise Composition

Mandal's	frequency	Percentage
Ramachandra Puram Mandal	50	50.0
Vadamalapet Mandal	50	50.0
Total	100	100.0

After applying for sanction of navaratnalu Govt. Welfare programmes sanction to respondents the particulars. Ramachandrapuram Mandal 50 (50.0) Repondents and Vadamalapet Mandal 50 (50.0) respondent. It's concluded the each Mandal are equal.

Table 2: Releasing the welfare programmes Village Wise Composition

Villages	frequency	Percentage
Ravillavaripalli	25	25.0
Venkatarama Puram	25	25.0
Tirumanyam	25	25.0
Vemapuram	25	25.0
Total	100	100.0

After applying for sanction of navaratnalu Govt. Welfare programmes sanction to respondents the particulars. The table shows ravillavaripalli, venkataramapuram, Tirumanyam and Vemapuram. Each villages are 25(25.0) respondents selected.

Table 3: Benefited of Welfare Programmes of respondents

Welfare Programmes	Frequency		Total	Percentage
	Yes	No		
			100	100.0
1.YSR Rythu Bharosa	60	40	100	100.0
2.Fee Reimbursement	32	68	100	100.0
3.Arogyasri	40	60	100	100.0
4.Jalayagnam	15	85	100	100.0
5.Ban on Alcohol	50	50	100	100.0
6.Amma Vodi	40	60	100	100.0
7.YSR Asara	60	40	100	100.0
8.Paydalandariki Illu	58	42	100	100.0
9.Pensionla Pempu	30	70	100	100.0

The information on the Govt. Welfare programmes being implemented in the Village has been elicited and presented in the Table.

The particulars of the more membership in YSR Rythu Barosa and YSR Asara 60(60.0) respondents, Paydalandariki Illu 58(58.0) respondents Ban on Alcohol 50 (50.0) respondents, Ammavadi and Arogyasri (40.0)

respondents, Free Reimbursement 32 (32.0) respondents Pensionla pempu 30 (30.0) respondents and Jalaysgnam 15 (15.0) respondents .

It is Concluded that majority and more benefited of the respondents YSR Rythu Barosa and YSR Asara 60 (60.0) respondents.

Table 4: Problems faced in the Govt. Welfare Programmes

Problems	frequency	Percentage
Non- Cooperation of Govt. Officers	15	15.0
Corruption of Govt. officers	5	5.0
Non - Cooperation of Village officers	20	20.0
No problems	60	60.0
Total	100	100.0

The respondents while Govt. Welfare Programmes faced many problems and the types of problems are presented in the table.

It is evident from table that 60(60.0) respondents did not faced any problems. But on the non-cooperation of the village officers 20 (20.0) respondents, 15 (15.0) respondents expressed the problems of Non-cooperation of Govt. officers and 5 (5.0) respondents corruption of Govt. Officers

Conclusion

Respondents of Ramachadrapuram and Vadamalapeta Mandals mostly benefited from Govt. Welfare Programmes (Navaratnalu). Majority of the Respondents received and above under Govt. Welfare Programmes (Navaratnalu) providing substantial additional income to the sample respondents. Govt. welfare programmes had some positive impact on the economic conditions of the sample respondents and made the respondents economically empowered. 60 percent respondents did not faced any problems at all under the programmes. The high number of respondents who participated in the programmes and increasing saving amount indicate the high impact of the Govt. welfare programmes. The programmes must continue with the pitfalls covered.

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