

VISHWA PROGRAMME IN KARNATAKA - A PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION

1. The Study

The programme known as Vishwa was initiated by the Government of Karnataka with a view to provide continuous productive employment in rural areas. It was launched by the Prime Minister on October 2, 1991 and aimed at providing strong marketing support to the goods and services produced in rural sector assuring quality of products, institutional support for training, procurement of raw material; and finance to ensure generation of sustainable income of Rs. 750/- to Rs.1000/- per month per beneficiary and revival and strengthening of sick tiny industrial units already established.

At the behest of Planning Commission the Programme Evaluation Organisation made a preliminary observation on the functioning of the programme to find out the extent to which results were achieved during the first year of its implementation.

2. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to ascertain the extent to which the results were achieved during the first year (i.e. October, 1991 to September, 1992) relating to the implementation of the various components of the programme.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Sample Selection

Two districts i.e. (i) Bangalore (rural) and (ii) Mysore were selected in Karnataka for study. From each of the two districts, 10 beneficiaries were selected at random on the basis of having maximum number of activities done both in the organised and unorganised sector. Thus 20 beneficiaries representing 8 activities were selected from 10 villages falling in the two selected districts.

4. Reference Period

The study was made in November, 1992 and the data were collected for the period, October, 1991 to September, 1992.

5. Main Findings

1. The programme was implemented through the Vishwa Cell created in the Department of Industries and Commerce where the General Manager DICs were made responsible to look after the programme at the district level. Three committees at the state level and one at the district level were set up for implementation and monitoring of the programme.
2. 8,376 persons were trained during reference period and there were some cases of drop outs also.
3. Of an additional requirement of 3,000 common worksheds under the programme, 1000 were to be constructed. Of these 665 were under different stages of construction at the time of study.
4. The power requirement under the programme was reported to be as low as 25 HP per production unit and the activities were mostly taken up manually.
5. The raw material was supplied to 3,018 beneficiaries by the identified nodal agencies both under organised and unorganised sectors.
6. 3996 units were established against the total target of 1.29 lakh and these units provided employment to 14,290 persons.
7. Under the programme, the nodal agencies supplied the raw material and procured back the finished goods by paying conversion charges to the beneficiaries for further marketing. Goods worth Rs. 1,194 lakh were produced and about 78 percent of these were sold during the reference period.
8. There was no provision of subsidy under Vishwa and the loan amount provided per unit varied from activity to activity.
9. Only 8 beneficiaries procured the raw material through nodal agencies, while 12 procured directly.
10. The average capacity utilisation of the units was to the extent of 18 percent. It was 11 percent in case of handloom, 15 percent in handicrafts, 17 percent in silk reeling, 28 percent in leather and 47 percent in chalk crayon.
11. 12 units marketed their products through the nodal agencies, while 8 marketed directly. The total production and marketed value was the highest in case of silk reeling units.

12. The sample units, on an average worked for 117 days during the first year. The units engaged in leather, chalk crayon and other activities on an average, worked for more number of days as compared to handloom, silk reeling and handicrafts.
13. In all 65 persons, 42 families and 23 other than family members were employed for 91 days on an average. The total wages paid and income per person was Rs. 1,617 and Rs. 1,624 respectively. The wages and income per day per person was Rs.22 and Rs.14/- respectively, while it was Rs.44/- for the leather units.
14. It was reported by the beneficiaries that the programme helped in providing more employment and income as well as encouraged self employment.

6. Major Suggestions

1. The target group needs to be identified and a list of such persons be maintained at the District Industries Centres for the purpose of proper planning and implementation of the programme.
2. The system of monitoring should be streamlined.
3. Construction of common worksheds may be given priority.
4. A good quality of raw material should be supplied timely and adequately to ensure full involvement of beneficiaries for better production capacity. Besides this, more raw material depots may be opened in the areas of concentration of beneficiaries.
5. Revival of sick units should be taken up early.
6. Loan amount may be raised and number of instalments for repayment be increased. Subsidy may also be given.
7. A sound marketing system need to be evolved for the sale of goods.
8. There is need for better and appropriate training facilities for the trainees with a view to enable them to take up productive employment.
9. Provision of continuous productive employment and generation of sustainable income under the programme may be ensured.