



## PARTICIPATION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF JFM- AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:** In this paper, an attempt is made to explaining varying levels of participation offer useful cues for the strengthening of the social protection umbrella in the country, through the JFM as well as other complementary programmes. The objective of this article is first, of trying to understand through fieldwork the level of rural mass participation in the scheme in the study area; and second, to identify ways in which the well being of rural participants could be further enhanced and the social protection potential of the programme better realized.

This paper analyses the awareness of respondents on the implementation of scheme in the study area as well as their participation levels in the scheme.

### Participation of Sample Households in the Implementation of JFM Programme

An attempt has been made here to analyze the extent and levels of participation of the sample households in the implementation of JFM programme in terms of the following parameters.

### Knowledge on the Uses of VSSs

The opinions of the sample respondents on the uses of the VSSs are presented in table 1. Nearly 40.11 per cent of the sample respondents felt that the VSSs would be helpful in facilitating good rainfall, such a percentage varying from 30.45 per cent in Chittoor district to 51.36 per cent in Ananthapuramu district.

Table -1

Opinion of the sample respondents on the uses of VSSs

S. No.	District	Providing employment	Good rainfall	Increasing ground water	Availability of grassing	Useful to Wild	No Idea	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	29 (13.18)	113 (51.36)	13 (5.91)	8 (3.64)	18 (8.18)	39 (17.73)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	23 (10.45)	67 (30.45)	14 (6.36)	13 (5.91)	7 (3.18)	96 (43.64)	220 (100.00)

3	Kurnool	37 (16.82)	82 (37.27)	15 (6.82)	18 (8.18)	22 (10.00)	46 (20.91)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	37 (16.82)	91 (41.36)	33 (15.00)	12 (5.45)	18 (8.18)	29 (13.18)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>126</b> <b>(14.32)</b>	<b>353</b> <b>(40.11)</b>	<b>75</b> <b>(8.52)</b>	<b>51</b> <b>(5.80)</b>	<b>65</b> <b>(7.39)</b>	<b>210</b> <b>(23.86)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

About 8.52 per cent of the respondents opined that the VSSs would help in increasing ground water levels. While about 14.32 per cent of the respondents expressed the opinion that the VSSs would be helpful in generating additional employment opportunities, nearly one-fourth of the respondents had no clear idea on the uses of VSSs. The VSS activities will be helpful for grazing of cattle as per the responses of 5.80 per cent of respondents. The VSS activities could help in providing shelter to wildlife as per the opinions of 7.39 per cent of sample respondents.

### Sample Households Visiting Forest

The distribution of sample households by the frequency of visiting forest is shown in table 2.

**Table -2**

#### Distribution of the sample Households by Frequency of Visiting Forest

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents				
		Regularly	Occasionally	Rarely	Not visiting	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	29 (13.18)	153 (69.55)	16 (7.27)	22 (10.00)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	36 (16.36)	139 (63.18)	33 (15.00)	12 (5.45)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	48 (21.82)	113 (51.36)	35 (15.91)	24 (10.91)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	7 (3.18)	159 (72.27)	48 (21.82)	6 (2.73)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b> <b>(13.64)</b>	<b>564</b> <b>(64.09)</b>	<b>132</b> <b>(15.00)</b>	<b>64</b> <b>(7.27)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It could be noted from table 4.19 that a preponderant majority i.e. 64.09 per cent of the sample households visited the forest only occasionally, i.e., whenever the occasion demanded; there was no much variation among the districts in this regard. While 15 per cent of the respondents reported that they rarely visited the forest. About 13.64 per cent of the respondents visits the forest regularly.

Regarding the number of family members visiting the forest, it may be seen from table 2 that a total of 1264 members in the sample households comprising 642 males and 617 females visited the forest. The number of family members of the sample respondents visiting the forest was highest in Kurnool district and lowest in Kadapa district. The average number of family members visiting the forest worked out to 1.44 per household.

### Number of Family Member Visiting Forest

S. No	Name of the District	No. of Family Member		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Ananthapuramu	168	152	320
2	Chittoor	163	144	307
3	Kurnool	171	174	345
4	Kadapa	145	147	292
<b>Total</b>		<b>647</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1264</b>

Source: Field Data

With regard to the purpose for which the members of the sample households visited the forest, it could be noted from table 3 that a preponderant majority i.e. 71.48 per cent of the respondents reported that they visited the forest only to undertake forestry works implemented by the VSS. Around 1.70 per cent of respondents reported that they visited the forest to collect fuel wood, fodder/ dry leaves and fruits respectively. About 26.82 per cent of respondents denied to respond.

**Table -3**

### Distribution of the sample Respondents by Purpose of visiting purpose

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents			
		To undertake forests works	To collect fodder/dry leaves	No Response	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	123 (55.91)	7 (3.18)	90 (40.91)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	197 (89.55)	4 (1.82)	19 (8.64)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	161 (73.18)	2 (0.91)	57 (25.91)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	148 (67.27)	2 (0.91)	70 (31.82)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>629</b> <b>(71.48)</b>	<b>15</b> <b>(1.70)</b>	<b>236</b> <b>(26.82)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total.

Thus, it is clear that most of the sample respondents and their family members visited the forest occasionally to undertake forestry works taken up by the VSSs and not for other purposes of collection of NTFP.

### Participation in the General Body Meeting

Participation in the GB meetings of the VSSs is an important indicator reflecting the interest of the sample households in the VSS activities. Table 4 presents the distribution of members in the sample households attending the first GB meeting held in their villages to discuss the formation of VSS.

**Table-4**  
**Members of the Sample Households Attending the**  
**First General Body Meeting**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents				
		Head of Household	Spouse	Son	Nobody attended	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	185 (84.09)	22 (10.00)	2 (0.91)	11 (5.00)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	79 (35.91)	28 (12.73)	11 (5.00)	102 (46.36)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	177 (80.45)	23 (10.45)	13 (5.91)	7 (3.18)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	192 (87.27)	16 (7.27)	12 (5.45)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>633</b> <b>(71.93)</b>	<b>89</b> <b>(10.11)</b>	<b>38</b> <b>(4.32)</b>	<b>120</b> <b>(13.64)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It may be noted from table 4 that in respect of over 71.93 per cent of the sample households, only the heads of the households attended the first GB meeting. The percentage of households which were represented by their heads at the first GB meeting varied from about 35.91 per cent in Chittoor district to about 87.27 per cent in Kadapa district. Only about 10.11 per cent of the sample respondents reported that their spouses represented their households in the first GB meeting, while the corresponding figure was about 4.32 per cent in the case of the sample households represented by their son. On the other hand, there were about 31.64 per cent sample respondents who reported that none of their family members attended the VSS formation GB meeting, varying from zero per cent in Kadapa district to 46.36 per cent in Chittoor district.

It is stipulated that an officer not below the rank of FRO should conduct the VSS formation GB meetings. The sample respondents were asked to recall the forest officials attending the first GB making to form the VSSs. Table 5 shows the forest officials attending the first GB meeting as reported by the sample respondents.

**Table -5**  
**Forest Department officials attending the first Month and year of General body meeting to form the**  
**VSSs**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents							Total
		District Forest Officer	Dy. Forest Range Officer	Forest Section Officer	Guard	Forest Range Officer & Guard	DFO, FRO, FSO & Guard	No Idea	
1	Ananthapuramu	0 (0.00)	6 (2.73)	18 (8.18)	86 (39.09)	99 (45.00)	11 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	8 (3.64)	12 (5.45)	17 (7.73)	64 (29.09)	79 (35.91)	8 (3.64)	32 (14.55)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	0 (0.00)	8 (3.64)	17 (7.73)	77 (35.00)	105 (47.73)	7 (3.18)	6 (2.73)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	6 (2.73)	8 (3.64)	11 (5.00)	68 (30.91)	108 (49.09)	8 (3.64)	11 (5.00)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b> <b>(1.59)</b>	<b>34</b> <b>(3.86)</b>	<b>63</b> <b>(7.16)</b>	<b>295</b> <b>(33.52)</b>	<b>391</b> <b>(44.43)</b>	<b>34</b> <b>(3.86)</b>	<b>49</b> <b>(5.57)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It may be noted from table 5 that only about 44.43 per cent of the sample respondents reported that the FRO along with forest guard attended the first GB meeting convened to form the VSS in their villages, such a percentage varying from 35.91 per cent in Chittoor district to 49.09 per cent in Kadapa district. While 5.57 per cent of the sample respondents had no idea about the different FD officials who visited the village for the first GB meeting, about 33.52 per cent reported that only the guard attended such a meeting and about 7.16 per cent reported that only the FSO did so.

**Table - 6**  
**Members of the Sample Households Attending the**  
**Last General Body Meeting**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents				
		Head of Household	Spouse	Son	Nobody Attended	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	191 (86.82)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	29 (13.18)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	86 (39.09)	7 (3.18)	8 (3.64)	119 (54.09)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	172 (78.18)	13 (5.91)	8 (3.64)	27 (12.27)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	192 (87.27)	14 (6.36)	3 (1.36)	11 (5.00)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>641</b> <b>(72.84)</b>	<b>34</b> <b>(3.86)</b>	<b>19</b> <b>(2.16)</b>	<b>186</b> <b>(21.14)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

Table 6 shows the members of the sample households attending the last GB meeting held most recently. It may be seen from table 4.24 that only the heads of households attended the last GB meeting in respect of 72.84 per cent of the sample households, such a percentage varying from 39.09 per cent in Chittoor district to 87.27 per cent in Kadapa district. Around 3.86 per cent of the sample respondents reported that their households were represented by their spouses in the last GB meeting, while there were 2.16 per cent of respondents who reported that his son attended such meeting. There were about 21.14 per cent of the sample respondents who reported that no body from their households attended the last GB meeting.

Thus, it is clear that only the heads of households comprising mostly male members attended the first and the last GB meetings in the case of a majority of the sample households. There was no significant increase in the number of households represented by women at the GB meetings from the first to the latest ones. Further, most of the sample respondents could not correctly recall the FD officials who attended the VSS formation GB meeting.

### **Participation in the Micro Plan**

Preparation of the micro plan and its modification from time to time is stipulated to be undertaken with the active involvement of the VSS members. Hence, it is important to examine the involvement of sample households in micro plan exercise. Table 4.25 presents the members of the sample households who participated in the preparation of micro plan for protection and development of VSS forest area.

**Table-7**  
**eMembers of the Sample Households Participating in the Micro-Plan Preparation**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents				
		Head of Household	Spouse	Son	None	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	163 (74.09)	7 (3.18)	6 (2.73)	44 (20.00)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	158 (71.82)	13 (5.91)	14 (6.36)	35 (15.91)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	79 (35.91)	11 (5.00)	17 (7.73)	113 (51.36)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	179 (81.36)	10 (4.55)	7 (3.18)	24 (10.91)	220 (100.00)
Total		<b>579</b> <b>(65.80)</b>	<b>41</b> <b>(4.66)</b>	<b>44</b> <b>(5.00)</b>	<b>216</b> <b>(24.55)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It could be noted from table 7 that only the heads of households in the case of about 65.80 per cent of the sample households took part in the preparation of micro plan, such a percentage varying from 35.91 per cent in Kurnool district to 81.36 per cent in Kadapa district. Only about 4.66 per cent and 5 per cent of the respondents reported that their spouses and sons were involved in the preparation of micro plan respectively. There were about 24.55 per cent of the sample respondents who did not report any involvement of their households in micro plan preparation.

Regarding the role of the sample respondents in the preparation of micro plan, table 4.26 indicates that about 42.50 per cent of the respondents reported no role, such a percentage varying from 7.27 per cent in Chittoor district to 60.91 per cent in Kadapa district. While about 46.82 per cent of the respondents described the participation of their households in the preparation of micro plan as passive, only 10.68 per cent felt that they actively participated in the activity.

**Table-8**  
**Role of the Sample Respondents in Preparation of Micro Plan**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents			
		Passive	Active	No Role	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	99 (45.00)	13 (5.91)	108 (49.09)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	131 (59.55)	73 (33.18)	16 (7.27)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	96 (43.64)	8 (3.64)	116 (52.73)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	86 (39.09)	0 (0.00)	134 (60.91)	220 (100.00)
Total		<b>412</b> <b>(46.82)</b>	<b>94</b> <b>(10.68)</b>	<b>374</b> <b>(42.50)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

With regard to the involvement of the sample respondents in the modification of micro plan, it could be noted from table 8 that about 55.57 per cent of the respondents had no role at all in the modification of micro plan in their villages. Only about 44.43 per cent of the respondents reported that they were involved in the modification of micro plan, such a percentage varying from 30.45 per cent in Kadapa district to 73.64 per cent in Kurnool district.

**Table 9**  
**Involvement of the Sample Respondents in Modification of Micro plan**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents		
		Yes	No	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	88 (40.00)	132 (60.00)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	74 (33.64)	146 (66.36)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	162 (73.64)	58 (26.36)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	67 (30.45)	153 (69.55)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>391</b> <b>(44.43)</b>	<b>489</b> <b>(55.57)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

### Mechanism Adopted to Protect VSS Forest Area

A vast majority of the sample respondents (707) had no clear idea about the mechanisms adopted for protecting the VSS forest area, as could be noted from table 9. Only about 8.98 per cent of the respondents reported that collective responsibility of the community was the main mechanism adopted to protect the VSS forest area, such a percentage varying from 2.27 per cent in Ananthapuramu district to 20.45 per cent in Kadapa district. Around 10.68 per cent of the respondents reported that controlling the goats was the important mechanism adopted to protect the VSS forest area, such a percentage being highest in Kadapa district (27.73).

**Table- 10**

### Opinion of the Sample Respondents on the Mechanisms Adopted for Protecting VSS Area

S.No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents			
		Controlling Goats	Collective Responsibility of the Community	No Idea	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	4 (1.82)	5 (2.27)	211 (95.91)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	0 (0.00)	15 (6.82)	205 (93.18)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	29 (13.18)	14 (6.36)	177 (80.45)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	61 (27.73)	45 (20.45)	114 (51.82)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>94</b> <b>(10.68)</b>	<b>79</b> <b>(8.98)</b>	<b>707</b> <b>(80.34)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

### Methods Adopted for Increasing Fodder Output

Increasing fodder output is considered as one of the important activities taken up through the VSSs to protect the forest from grazing by the cattle. Table 11 shows the methods adopted for increasing the fodder output in the sample VSSs as reported by the sample respondents.

**Table 11**  
**Opinion of the Sample Respondents on Methods Adopted for Increasing Fodder Output**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents			
		Fire Prevention	Using Stylo Hamato seeds	No Idea	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	14 (6.36)	6 (2.73)	200 (90.91)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	45 (20.45)	17 (7.73)	158 (71.82)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>59</b> <b>(6.70)</b>	<b>23</b> <b>(2.61)</b>	<b>798</b> <b>(90.68)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It could be seen from table 11 that a vast majority of the sample respondents (90.68) had no clear idea about the methods adopted for increasing fodder output in their VSS areas. Only about 2.61 per cent of the sample respondents reported that fodder output was sought to be increased in their respective VSS areas using stylo hamato seeds; only the respondents of Chittoor and Kadapa district reported this measure, such a percentage is nil in case two other districts namely Ananthapuramu and Kurnool. Further, about 6.71 per cent of the respondents reported that fire prevention was the method adopted for increasing the fodder output in their VSS areas, such a percentage varying nil in Ananthapuramu and Kurnool districts and 20.45 per cent in Kadapa district.

#### **Main Participants in VSS Activities**

It is important to ascertain the main actors involved in the implementation of JFM through the VSS. The opinions of the sample respondents on the main participants involved in the implementation of VSS activities are presented in table 12



Table -12

## Opinion of the sample respondents on the Main participants in the Implementation of VSS

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents								
		Village peoples	Forest officers	VSS president	VSS president and Guard	VSS president & EC members	Village people and Forest officers	Forest Officers & VSS President	No	Total
1	Ananthapuramu	74 (33.64)	0 (0.00)	96 (43.64)	22 (10.00)	7 (3.18)	0 (0.00)	13 (5.91)	8 (3.64)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	66 (30.00)	0 (0.00)	71 (32.27)	39 (17.73)	44 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	63 (28.64)	0 (0.00)	68 (30.91)	24 (10.91)	60 (27.27)	0 (0.00)	5 (2.27)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	34 (15.45)	0 (0.00)	76 (34.55)	29 (13.18)	67 (30.45)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	14 (6.36)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>237</b> <b>(26.93)</b>	<b>0</b> <b>(0.00)</b>	<b>311</b> <b>(35.34)</b>	<b>114</b> <b>(12.95)</b>	<b>178</b> <b>(20.23)</b>	<b>0</b> <b>(0.00)</b>	<b>18</b> <b>(2.05)</b>	<b>22</b> <b>(2.50)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It may be noted from table 12 that according to a considerable proportion of the respondents (35.34) the VSS president was the key participant in the implementation of VSS activities, such a percentage varying from 30.91 per cent in Kurnool district to 43.64 per cent in Ananthapuramu district. Further, about 20.23 per cent of the respondents opined that the VSS president and EC members together played the main role in the implementation of VSS activities, such a percentage varying from 3.18 per cent in Ananthapuramu district to 30.45 per cent in Kadapa district.

### Activities Undertaken in the Sample VSSs

The activities undertaken in the sample VSSs during the last one year (2013-14) as reported by the sample respondents are presented in table 13

**Table- 13**  
**Activities Undertaken in the Sample VSSs during the last one year**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents							Total
		Plantation	CCTs	Percolation Tank	Plantation & CCTS	Plantation & RFDS	CCTs & RFDS	No idea	
1	Ananthapuramu	22 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	64 (29.09)	17 (7.73)	8 (3.64)	109 (49.55)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	61 (27.73)	6 (2.73)	6 (2.73)	44 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	12 (5.45)	91 (41.36)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	44 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	122 (55.45)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	54 (24.55)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	38 (17.27)	13 (5.91)	12 (5.45)	71 (32.27)	53 (24.09)	0 (0.00)	33 (15.00)	220 (100.00)
Total		<b>165</b> <b>(18.75)</b>	<b>19</b> <b>(2.16)</b>	<b>18</b> <b>(2.05)</b>	<b>301</b> <b>(34.20)</b>	<b>70</b> <b>(7.95)</b>	<b>20</b> <b>(2.27)</b>	<b>287</b> <b>(32.61)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It may be noted from table 13 that plantation and digging of CCTs (Continuous Contour Trenches) was the important activity undertaken in the sample VSSs during the last one year according to about 34.20 per cent of the sample respondents, such a percentage varying from 20 per cent in Chittoor district to 55.45 per cent in Kurnool district. Another important activity undertaken was the plantation as reported by about 18.75 per cent of the sample respondents, such a percentage varying from 10 per cent in Ananthapuramu district to 27.73 per cent in Chittoor district. The other important activities reported by the sample respondents include the construction of Rock Fill Dams (RFDs), CCTs and percolation tanks. Nearly three-fourth of the sample respondents had no idea about the activities undertaken in the VSS areas during the last one year, such a percentage varying from 15 per cent in Kadapa district to 49.55 per cent in Ananthapuramu district.

### Knowledge of the Physical and Financial Aspects of VSS Activities

It is important to ascertain the knowledge of the sample respondents about the physical and financial aspects of the VSS activities. Table 14 presents such details.

**Table -14**  
**Knowledge of the Sample Respondents about the Physical and Financial Aspects of the VSS Activities**

Name of the District	Rock fill dams			Earthen Dams			Continuous Contour Trenches (CCTs)			Check Dams		
	No. Constructed	Length (Meters)	Expenditure (Rs.)	No. Constructed	Length (Meters)	Expenditure (Rs.)	No. Constructed	Length (Meters)	Expenditure (Rs.)	No. Constructed	Length (Meters)	Expenditure (Rs.)
Ananthapuramu	126 (201)	0 (0)	226001 (187)	142 (178)	0 (0)	338333 (101)	19 (147)	66 (25)	447500 (59)	29 (168)	9 (101)	559167 (103)
Chittoor	105 (147)	580 (108)	251200 (126)	135 (101)	261 (109)	313817 (174)	105 (201)	559 (179)	431250 (198)	102 (181)	299 (138)	672055 (129)
Kurnool	158 (101)	650 (120)	365001 (93)	138 (123)	232 (124)	435063 (121)	109 (186)	505 (142)	455000 (127)	145 (125)	250 (152)	548900 (144)
Kadapa	98 (74)	0 (0)	355000 (69)	147 (146)	286 (108)	360000 (150)	112 (149)	627 (158)	550000 (102)	112 (190)	320 (119)	620000 (87)
<b>Total</b>	<b>487 (523)</b>	<b>1230 (228)</b>	<b>1197202 (475)</b>	<b>562 (548)</b>	<b>779 (341)</b>	<b>1447213 (546)</b>	<b>345 (683)</b>	<b>1757 (504)</b>	<b>1883750 (486)</b>	<b>388 (664)</b>	<b>878 (510)</b>	<b>2400122 (463)</b>
%To the total Respondents	59.4	25.9	54.0	62.3	38.8	62.0	77.6	57.3	55.2	75.5	58.0	52.6

Source: Field data

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the number of households reporting

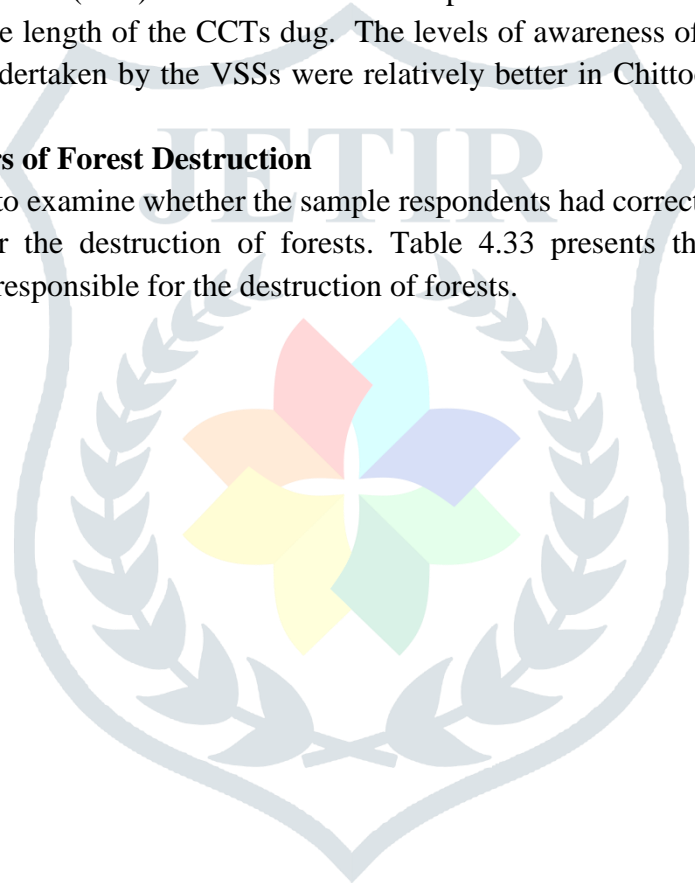
Table 14 shows the knowledge of the sample respondents regarding the physical and financial aspects of the activities undertaken by the VSSs, which indicates that hardly half of the sample respondents had some knowledge on these aspects. It may be seen that only 644 out of 880 respondents (75.5) could list out the number of check dams constructed in the VSS area, but only 463 of them (52.6) could tell the expenditure incurred and only 510 respondents (58) could give details about the length of the check dams.

In respect of the rock fill dams, 523 respondents (59.4) could list out the number of RFDs constructed, but only 475 respondents (54) could reveal the expenditure incurred and only 228 of them (25.9) could tell about the length of the RFDs. Regarding the earthen dams constructed, 548 respondents (62) could reveal the number constructed, but 546 respondents (62) had knowledge on expenditure incurred and 341 respondents (38.8) could tell about the length of earthen dams.

With regard to the CCTs dug, 683 respondents (77.6) could give the details of the number of CCTs dug, while only 486 respondents (55.2) could tell about the expenditure incurred and 504 respondents (57.3) had some knowledge on the length of the CCTs dug. The levels of awareness of the physical and financial aspects of the activities undertaken by the VSSs were relatively better in Chittoor and Kurnool districts as compared to other districts.

### **Perceptions on the Factors of Forest Destruction**

It is also important to examine whether the sample respondents had correct perceptions with regard to the factors responsible for the destruction of forests. Table 4.33 presents the opinions of the sample respondents on the factors responsible for the destruction of forests.



**Table -15**  
**Opinions of the Sample Respondents on the Factors Responsible for Forest Destruction**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents							Total
		Inadequate Rainfall	Lack of Fertilization	Fire wood Collection	Lack of effective Supervision	Fire Accidents	Grazing of Goats	No Response	
1	Ananthapuramu	126 (57.27)	0 (0.00)	28 (12.73)	22 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	44 (20.00)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	152 (69.09)	6 (2.73)	33 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	18 (8.18)	11 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	80 (36.36)	0 (0.00)	64 (29.09)	32 (14.55)	44 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	83 (37.73)	11 (5.00)	44 (20.00)	27 (12.27)	22 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	33 (15.00)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>441</b> <b>(50.11)</b>	<b>17</b> <b>(1.93)</b>	<b>169</b> <b>(19.20)</b>	<b>81</b> <b>(9.20)</b>	<b>84</b> <b>(9.55)</b>	<b>11</b> <b>(1.25)</b>	<b>77</b> <b>(8.75)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It may be noted from table 15 that a majority of the respondents (50.11) felt that inadequate rainfall was responsible for the destruction of forests; the percentage of respondents reporting this factor was, however, less at 36.36 per cent and 37.73 per cent respectively in Kurnool and Kadapa districts, when compared to Chittoor district where the corresponding figure was very high at 69.09 per cent. Another important factor responsible for the destruction of forest was collection of fire wood from the forest as reported by 19.20 per cent of the respondents, the corresponding figure varying from 12.73 per cent in Ananthapuramu district to 29.09 per cent in Kurnool district. Another important factor responsible for the destruction of forests was fire accidents according to 9.55 per cent of the respondents, such a percentage varying from nil in Ananthapuramu district to 20 per cent in Kurnool district. The other factors responsible for forest destruction as reported by the sample respondents include lack of effective supervision by the forest department (9.20), besides grazing of goats (1.25) and lack of fertilization (1.93). Nearly 8.75 per cent of the respondents had no clear idea about the factors responsible for forest destruction.

### Perceptions on the Measures needed for Improving Forest Condition

It is also equally important to understand the perceptions of the sample respondents on the measures needed for improving the forest condition. Table 16 shows the opinions of the sample respondents regarding the measures needed for improving the forest condition.

**Table -16**  
**Opinion of the sample respondents on the Improve the forest conditions**

S. No.	District	District Wise Coverage of Respondents						Total
		Improve water facilities	Processing different species	Community efforts	Reducer the goats	More plantation	No idea	
1	Ananthapuramu	0 (0.00)	17 (7.73)	0 (0.00)	13 (5.91)	176 (80.00)	14 (6.36)	220 (100.00)
2	Chittoor	7 (3.18)	7 (3.18)	6 (2.73)	12 (5.45)	175 (79.55)	13 (5.91)	220 (100.00)
3	Kurnool	11 (5.00)	17 (7.73)	6 (2.73)	6 (2.73)	180 (81.82)	0 (0.00)	220 (100.00)
4	Kadapa	6 (2.73)	7 (3.18)	17 (7.73)	0 (0.00)	185 (84.09)	5 (2.27)	220 (100.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b> <b>(2.73)</b>	<b>48</b> <b>(5.45)</b>	<b>29</b> <b>(3.30)</b>	<b>31</b> <b>(3.52)</b>	<b>716</b> <b>(81.36)</b>	<b>32</b> <b>(3.64)</b>	<b>880</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data Note: Figures in Parenthesis is percentage to Total

It may be seen from table 16 that nearly 81.36 per cent of the sample respondents felt that more plantation need to be provided for improving the condition of forests, such a percentage varying from 79.55 per cent in Chittoor district to 84.09 per cent in Kadapa district. Another important measure needed for improving the forest condition according to 5.45 per cent of the sample respondents was the processing of different species in the forest, such a percentage varying from 3.18 per cent in Chittoor and Kadapa districts 7.73 per cent in Ananthapuramu and Kurnool districts. Another measure for improving the forest condition was community efforts, as reported by 3.30 per cent of the respondents, varying from nil in Ananthapuramu district to 7.73 per cent in Kadapa district. Another 3.52 per cent of the respondents felt that the reduction of goat grazing would help in improving the forest condition, while 3.64 per cent of the respondents had no clear idea on this aspect.

### Overview

To sum up, it may be said that most of the sample respondents had some idea about the uses of VSSs and they visited forest occasionally to undertake the works undertaken by the VSSs. Over four-fifths of the sample households attended the first and the latest GB meetings, mostly represented by men, but most of

them could not correctly recall the FD officials visiting the VSS formation GB meeting. Even though nearly four-fifths of the respondents reported that they took part in the preparation of micro plan, only about five per cent reported that they had an active role. Further, only about one-fourth of them participated in the modification of the micro plan. Most of the respondents felt that only the VSS president and the EC members were the major actors in the implementation of VSS activities. Even though most of the respondents could list out the important activities undertaken by the VSSs, their knowledge on physical and financial aspects was very much limited. Experts reported low levels of awareness among the VSS members. Most of the respondents, however, had correct perceptions regarding the factors responsible for the destruction of forest and the measures needed to improve the forest condition.

Thus, it may be observed that the participation of the sample households could be termed as passive, as they had limited role in GB meetings, and in the preparation and modification of micro plan. Though most of them actively participated in the execution of VSS activities, they had only a limited knowledge on the physical and financial aspects of the different activities undertaken. The low levels of literacy among the sample respondents could be one of the factors responsible for their minimal participation in the JFM programme.

