

An Analytical Study of Factors Affecting the Livelihood of the Community of Dang Area of Karauli District of Rajasthan

Neeraj Kumar Prajapati¹, Dr. Sita Gurjar²

¹Ph. D. Research Scholar, Janardan Rai Nagar Vidyapeeth (Deemed - to - be) University, Udaipur

²Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work, Janardan Rai Nagar Vidyapeeth (Deemed - to - be) University, Udaipur

Abstract: *Sustainable livelihood with regular income source helps in achieving economic growth, poverty reduction and sustaining inclusive development of family. Dang area of Karauli district is consist of three densely populated and underdeveloped blocks. Livelihood of community of dang area is mostly dependent on Agriculture and Livestock rearing. Despite having abundant natural resources and suitable condition of farming, the community is facing massive challenges of regular and sustainable livelihood. In this research paper, we aimed to identify and assess various factors affecting and their impact on the livelihood of community of area. To assess and analyse the above problem, we used the secondary data. The results indicate that illiteracy, lack of awareness, practice of traditional farming, single income source, poor penetration of government schemes are some of the factors that affecting the livelihood of community. The study will be useful literature for policymakers, organizations to make right efforts for development of the area.*

Keywords: Dang Area, Livelihood, Poverty, Inclusive development, sustainable livelihood

1. Introduction

Sustainable Livelihood is the biggest driver for the prosperous life of a family. This livelihood come from various income sources such as agriculture, livestock rearing, labour work, job, business etc (Income and Livelihood, 2011). Most of these works like agriculture, cattle rearing is done by whole family certainly with involvement of peer families which is mostly common in rural settings across different geography. Other livelihood works are done either by man part of families like labour work or with some support provided by female of families. The livelihood pattern in the communities varies from area to area and this disparity is resultant due to different geography, culture, socio - economic conditions, involvement of community, access to urban area, outreach of government schemes etc (Deshpande, 2022). These factors significantly impact the livelihood pattern of the community of particular area which often impacts the living standard and development of the family and community.

Whenever we speak about the dang, we recall the work of bihad of Chambal River which has been land of dacoits. Dang region of Rajasthan is spread in eight districts named as Baran, Bharatpur, Bundi, Dholpur, Karauli, Kota and Sawai Modhpur (Government of Rajasthan, 2022). As far as Dang region is concerned, Karauli and Sawai Madhopur are the main two districts which covers most of the area (around 60 percent) of Chambal region of Dang. Chambal Dang region covers the villages and localities which are in the range of 30 - 50 km and resides in basin or valley region had been eroded by Chambal River (Department of Mines and Geology, 2019). The special segregation to this area is given on the basis of availability of resources and development in the community so that government can plan special intervention for the development of the region.

Dang area of Karauli district is consist of three blocks named as Sapotra, Mandrayal and Karauli (Department of Mines and

Geology, 2019). The area is situated at the bank of Chambal River, and the special status of dang area is given based on availability of resources and development in the recent years (Bhartiya, 2016). Karauli was 32nd district of Rajasthan which was formed on 19th July 1997 to provide speed to the development of dang area (District Karauli, 2024). There are two major reasons which gives the area special status as the dang area has been extended part of Ranthambore Tiger reserve and it had been home of many dacoits for the long time which restricted the natural development to held in the area. The geography of the area is undulating which observers the major run off natural rain in rainy seasons. Due to all these factors together have created massive challenges for the community to even engage with basic livelihood activities and made their life difficult to even compete with basic needs.

Dang Area Development Programme (DADP) programme was one dedicated program launched in 1987 - 88. The objective of the program was to retrieve the development in the Chambal region and provide better development growth in the area. The program was launched in 3 phases as 1987 - 88, 1995 - 96 and 2004 - 05 in 394 gram panchayats of eight districts (Government of Rajasthan, 2022). All the developmental activities have been implemented through District Rural Development Agencies of the concerned districts. The program had been successful in creating government structures like rods etc in the area in limited capacity.

NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) which has covered around 81 percent rural households in SHGs (Self Help Group) (RAJEEVIKA, 2023) in dang area of Karauli district has been successful in some extant on the engagement of villagers' especially women in SHG based livelihood activities. MGNREGA (MG - National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is another program has footed in remote parts of dang area to provide sure income source in form of daily labour in infrastructure work of Gram Panchayats (Kumawat

and Upadhyaya, 2015). Other livelihood program of different department like department of agriculture, department of animal husbandry are also implemented time to time but their impact is also minimal. Therefore, the study is aimed to understand the major factor that are affecting and their impact on the livelihood of dang area community.

Objective of Study

These are the main objectives of the study as

- 1) To identify the different factors affecting the livelihood of community of dang area.
- 2) To analyse the livelihood factors and their impact on the development of the community.

2. Methodology

The causal research is based on secondary data which have been collected from articles, research reports, government reports published by various researchers, academic organizations, and departments. The data is also collected from the project reports, impact assessment conducted by various local NGOs (Non - Governmental Organization) who are working in the same area. To verify the thoughts of reports, we have also discussed with representatives of local organizations working in the area.

Research Findings - From the review of data and analysing various research material, these following results are concluded. As per the objectives of the study, whole findings are categorised in 2 parts as

Factors affecting Livelihood of community - these are following factors that are affecting the livelihood of the community of dang area mostly as

- 1) **Less Education and Awareness** - The literacy rate of Karauli district is around 65.05 percent (District Report Karauli, 2022) which seems good when it is compared with state literacy rate of Rajasthan (66.11 percent) as per census data of 2011. The literacy rate of dang area is around 62.95 percent which is mostly covered by three blocks. The male literacy rate was around 77.72 percent and women literacy percentage of dang area was 45.48 percent, around 7 percent below to state rural average (52 percent). There had a significant gape of around 32 percent in male and female literacy. Female which plays key role in nurturing and development of next generation were found most exploited in terms of providing basic education encouragement from families. Due to this gape in literacy level, villagers are far from the awareness of career opportunities, exposure of higher education and government jobs etc. And this has been observed the main reason of less exposure of different development in outer world to the community which somehow impacted their livelihood.

Name of Dang Area Blocks	Male Literacy	Female Literacy	Total Literacy
Mandrayal	75.56	43.26	60.98
Saporta	76.20	44.59	61.66
Karauli	81.41	48.61	66.22
Average	77.72	45.48	62.95

(Source: District Census - 2011, Karauli)

- 2) **Practice of traditional Farming** - Referring to above details of low education and awareness, farmers are far from the exposure of advance techniques of farming. Farmers still use bulls for cultivation and rainwater for irrigation. Tractors and higher machinery are used only by some money landers or prosperous farmers only. According to baseline study conducted by one of the local NGO for agriculture, around 80 - 90 percent farmers are still using old practices of seed sowing, use of indigenous seed, flood irrigation etc. and other farming practices.
- 3) **Geography of area** - Dang area of Karauli comes under Agro - Climatic Zone - III which makes it flood prone area due to its undulating topography (Krishi Vigyan Kendra Karauli, 2024). Karauli and Sapotra blocks have shallow to very shallow light brown soil, which is in water absorbing and agriculture, but Sapotra (some parts) and Mandrayal have sandy mould which are found to have less water absorbing capability that agriculture challenging.¹ Due to undulating topography and slopy terrain most of rainwater run away instead of absorbing into soil which has created huge problem of water scarcity in the area. The population density of the district is 263.98 and for dang area it is 169.80² which show that less population live in the area due to its geographical challenges. Therefore, it gets less attraction of government and policy makers in terms of project planning.
- 4) **Inclusion in Forest Area** - The area is extended part of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve which comes under forest department and provide less exposure of non - forest activities. On other side, around 80% are of dang area is covered under Kela Devi Wilf Life Sanctuary which covers the area of 755 square km (Mahajan and Khandal, 2021). This combined has created many challenges for the livelihood development of the community. Due to forest area, electricity connections are not allowed in the villages which made compulsion for them to use diesel engine to lift water from pond and water - wells and it cost really high. Some of the effluents and selected farmers are shifted towards solar based irrigation but their no is very low. Refraining from electricity has not only created challenges in livelihood but also in education of children, operations of AWC and another household works etc.
- 5) **Dependency of Male Income** - Since the area has been male dominant from long time and it was the home of many dacoits which created terror like environment for long time (Korde, 2023). It resultant created male dominated families there somehow which gradually pushed only male part to do livelihood activities and female to engage in household activities only.

Table 1: Literacy Rate in Dang Area of Karauli

¹ Rajasthan District Gazetteers, Karauli, Chapter-4, Page No-3

² RAJASTHAN DISTRICT GAZETTEERS, KARAU LI, Page No-3

- 6) **Least priority area in policy formation** - the area is extended part of Ranthambore tiger reserve and comes under forest area of Kela Devi Wilf Life Sanctuary therefore there has been a tussal of planning and formation of development polices. There are 394 revenue villages in the dang area of Karauli district but till now only two villages have been displaced which shows that area has not been in much consideration of government is this area.
- 7) **Less exposure of Government Scheme** - The government schemes are made for the empowerment of the community. Similar to other areas, government schemes are implemented at this area as well. But due to difficult geography, poor connectivity, accessibility these schemes are not reached to the maximum population. MG - NREGA and NRLM are only two such program which has created some impact in terms of livelihood by creating water structures, renovation of water bodies etc. From the literature review, it could be inferred that DADP (Dang Area Development Program) was only one such program which was implemented for the community of dang area in 2004 - 05 in eight districts (Sharda, 2023). The program was mostly focused on infrastructure development.

Impact of Livelihood factors - The above livelihood factors has impacted the overall development of the community massively. We have tried to narrate the impact in below points as

- 1) **Economic Impact** - These factors have highly impacted the development of local economy of area that leads no market availability for the scope of business. Still farmers of this dang area have to travel to district headquarter which is around 35 km distance for any small to big purchasing and selling. The process takes huge time due to poor connectivity and cause massive inconvenience to locals. In rainy days, the roads become poorer which delay the daily market work often.
- 2) **Slow development in area** - Due to low literacy and less awareness in the community is struggling for their basic rights which affects their development in terms of basic livelihood. People are not aware about the importance and benefits of different government schemes which made their life even more difficult. NERGA is the scheme which has covered most of the area to create livelihood in form of labour in dang community. Another scheme is NRLM which has created 551 SHGs till April 2024 as per the data of RGAVP (RGAVP, 2024).
- 3) **Unemployment** - Due to low literacy level and lack of awareness for better careers options and source of income, the youth of dang area is facing the massive problem of unemployment. Majority of youths of study areas are facing the problem of employment and regular livelihood. Secondly there are no as such any industry which can help youths in getting better jobs finally. Some of the youths were also involved in the mining work in the sand mines in nearby area (Ahmad, 2015). But after COVID - 19 all these mines are shout down and no employment is there for these youths. On other side, these mining work have caused many diseases like silicosis, join pain, cough etc among labours (Mohammad, 2019). We see hardly any person in the government jobs or in higher position. Majority of

Government Jobs people are in Sapotra and Karauli area which has some urban population as well. But in Mandrayal block, which is completely rural, find very difficult to find any person in government jobs. In some cases, the people who migrated from dang area to urban pockets got good exposure of development and started empowering their children for education, are now in government jobs somewhere.

- 4) **High Poverty** - the poor and unsustainable source of livelihood always to poverty and it can be seen in the dang area on the massive scale. Due to improper livelihood patter, dependency of external resources, they don't have sustainable income source which cause the extreme poverty in the area. From the below data, it can be inferred that around 18 percent population of the area is under Below Poverty Line (BPL) accessing BPL cards as well (Rajasthan Foods, 2024).

Table 2: Outreach of BPL Families in Dang Area of Karauli

Name of Dang Area Blocks	Total Ration Cards	No of BPL Cards	Percent of BPL Cards
Mandrayal	38868	7191	19 percent
Saporta	58137	13369	23 percent
Karauli	87353	13434	15 percent
Average	184358	33994	18 percent

(Data Source - Rajasthan Sate Food and Civil Supplies Department, 2024)

- 5) **Poor Socio - Economic Condition** - Poor condition of a person not only affect the life of only one but impact the entire family. The people associated with the family and the society also get affected with status, condition of the family. Due to poor socio - economic conditions of dang area community, it also created various interconnected issues as
 - a) **Emotional and psychological stress in family:** People (Farmers, women, labours etc) are facing significant emotional strain on all family members due to financial and social hardship. They often found themselves in depression, helpless, and observed the fear of livelihood loss, arrangement to money to run their family. Due to this they are not able to focus on the development of their children, their aspirations and other family matters which can be seen easily in the area. The same facets have been observed in dang area as people and impacted the overall development of the community.
 - b) **Impact on the Educational Standard of Children:** Due to lack of awareness, educational institutions and difficult geography, children often have to struggle to access quality education. Old system of dang community leads them to leave school in early age and involve in the livelihood activities like farming, cattle grazing and caring of small children etc. The situation has impacted the livelihood and living standard of the families of dang area significantly.
 - c) **Access of Health Facilities:** Due to poor family conditions, dang area community faces challenges in availing the health facilities at district hospital. The difficult terrain of dang area makes their travel even more difficult during rainy season therefore they unable to reach at health care facility on time. The IMR of the area was reported 66 (Ahuja, 2021) as per census 2011 which was very high as compare the state IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) of 55.

- d) **Change in Community Dynamics:** When more families of an area face many problems, it becomes their common problem and becomes bigger social issues. Due to high rise in poverty many families of dang area also joined the gang of dacoits in Chambal region which not only increased the crimes in area but also reduced community engagement, family relationship, distance from traditional occupation. This overall has compromised the safety and security of community and restricted the government machinery to plan developmental intervention in this area.
- e) **Less empowerment of vulnerable groups** - Any kind of poor or slow progress mostly affects the weaker section of the society. Vulnerable groups like women, widows, children of single parents, persons with physical disabilities are some of the sections that have been impacted the most by this precarious livelihood situation in the Dang area. The situation of women who fall in the most vulnerable category is even worse, which can be understood from the fact that the literacy rate of women in the region is 46 percent, which has a direct impact on the development of children and awareness in families.

3. Result and Conclusion

Based on the data collected and analysed during the research, it can be concluded that the livelihood situation in the area is very critical. All the above mentioned factors have severely impacted the livelihood of the community, thereby affecting the overall development of the area. If we talk about the intervention of government schemes, then only National Rural Livelihood Development Project and NREGA are the two such government schemes which have contributed to solving the livelihood problem to some extent. Some NGOs have also been active in the area for some years and are making development efforts. Of course, all these factors, risks, challenges and their implications need to be considered while formulating any livelihood related plan so that better planning can be done in the development of the Dang area. Being a forest - based area, the dang region also has policy challenges which cannot be ignored and hence a permanent solution can only come out of the mutual harmony of both.

References

- [1] Ahmad, A. (2015). Socio - economic and health status of sandstone miners: a case study of Sorya village, Karauli, Rajasthan.
- [2] Ahuja, S. (2021). *Indirect Estimates of District wise IMR and Under 5 Mortality*. NHSRC. Retrieved from https://nhsrcindia.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/Indirect%20Estimations%20of%20Districtwise%20IMR%20U5M%20with%20Census%202011%20Data_0.pdf
- [3] Bhartiya, L. (2016). *Role of MNREGA in the changing scenario of development (A Case Study of Sawai Madhopur District)*. Phd Thesis, University of Kota. Retrieved from <https://www.uok.ac.in/notifications/Vishambhar%20Dayal%20Meena%20Geography.pdf>
- [4] Department of Mines and Geology. (2019). *District Survey Report, Karauli*. MoEF&CC. Retrieved from <https://environmentclearance.nic.in/DownloadPdfFile.aspx?FileName=C++fnEqvs95IfeuYxii1IEKe/084fDMuyCv07ApTerb6l6JSF1GuQtnp1QE7rD7GNZi/p5FKvxi3lePinWixOu1RUAmTyP64rGJNdfHS5E=&FilePath=93ZZBm8LWEXfg+HAIQix2fE2t8z/pgnoBhDIYdZCxzUIDadBGU7t8v4JoQvNU6UBy2No3WL>
- [5] Deshpande, A. (2022). *Rural Livelihoods Programs in India: Lessons from the Past as a Guide to Future*. Ashoka University. Retrieved from <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/62141abf1152d94953e76c11345c869f-0310022021/related/SARL-India-Final-Report-Final-May22.pdf>
- [6] District Karauli, H. (2024, May). *Karauli District Government of Rajasthan*. Retrieved May 2024, from www.karauli.rajasthan.gov.in: <https://karauli.rajasthan.gov.in/sm/jankalyan-category-and-entry-type/12663/43/4/1>
- [7] District Report Karauli. (2022). *Rajasthan District Gazetteers, Karauli*. Karauli: Government of Rajasthan.
- [8] Government of Rajasthan. (2022). *Rajasthan District Gazetteer*. Jaipur: Planning (Manpower) Department, Rajasthan.
- [9] (2011). *Income and Livelihood*. IM4Change, New Delhi. Retrieved from https://www.im4change.org/docs/chhat_chap2-41-84.pdf
- [10] Korde, N. (2023, April). *From Dacoity To Prosperity In Karauli, Rajasthan*. Retrieved from India Fellow: <https://indiafellow.org/blog/all-posts/from-dacoity-to-prosperity-in-karauli-rajasthan/>
- [11] Krishi Vigyan Kendra Karauli. (2024, May). *Brief Introduction of Karauli District*. Retrieved from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Karauli: <https://karauli.kvk2.in/about.php>
- [12] Kumawat and Upadhyaya, V. a. (2015). Analysis of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in Karauli District of Rajasthan. *IJCMS*, 23 - 25.
- [13] Mahajan and Khandal, P. a. (2021). *Preliminary status of the Indian grey wolf in Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan, India*. Canid Biology and Conservation.
- [14] Mohammad, S. (2019). *Rehabilitation of Silicosis Victims of District Karauli, Rajasthan, India*. Indian Journal of Community Medicine. doi: https://doi.org/10.4103/ijcm.ijcm_50_19
- [15] Rajasthan Foods. (2024, April). *Rajasthan - Report on Category wise Number of Ration Card in Block*. Retrieved from www.food.rajasthan.gov.in/BlockORNagarPalikaWiseCategoryDetails.aspx
- [16] RAJEEVIKA. (2023). *Progress Report*. Jaipur: Department of Rural Development, Government of Rajasthan. Retrieved from <https://rgavp.rajasthan.gov.in/Content/DownloadManager/5841d9fa-378e-44f5-ae6d-e5bdeca6659.pdf>
- [17] RGAVP. (2024, April). *RGAVP*. Retrieved from www.rgavp.rajasthan.gov.in/Reports/CBOGradeRpt
- [18] Sharda, P. (2023). *Polity and Governance*. Retrieved from Abhipedia: <https://abhipedia.abhimanu.com/Article/State/NTcwNTUEEQVW/State-Govt-Schemes-for-Rural-Development-in-Rajasthan-Rajasthan>