

A motivational analysis for livelihood support of rural communities living around protected areas

Investigator: **Rishi, P.**

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Motivation is a key factor for Protected Areas (PA) conservation and management, where the role propagated worldwide. If protected area managers are not able to appreciate the contents and processes underlying motivation, supporting the livelihood development activities and motivating the rural communities for PA, conservation is quite difficult.

The study, undertaken in two national parks, Bandhavgarh and Ranthambore intended to uncover the motivations and need patterns of the rural communities with the objectives of preparing the perceptual and motivational profiles, analysing them in the context of ongoing eco-development activities and proposing to integrate the motivational strategies for Need Analysis at Ranthambhor livelihood support through eco development planning and effective PA conservation and management with people's participation.

The respondents were compared on the basis of mean difference and the Mann-Whitney U-test. Perceptions of both the major stakeholders i.e. villagers' and forest department staff perceived that ecological functions, tourism and protection of wild life are the major benefits from the park and served as a first major objective of Eco development program. However, sources of livelihoods and livelihood support activities were also the part of eco development program, which were not given much importance which, if properly generated, might result in sincere efforts by villagers' in forest conservation.

The need assessment results revealed that EDC should be strengthened, integrating the immediate needs so that villagers' level of survival and safety needs can be raised and people start believing the relation between PA conservation and their need satisfaction and understand the role of forest department in this regard. The basic requirement is developing belongingness with the EDC and PA, which will act as a strong motivator for conserving the parks. It will further motivate them for PA conservation and management on sustainable basis and will reduce the unlawful activities in the national parks.