

Change in Social Capital of communities under the Community Forestry Programme of India

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This project aimed to study the change in social capital at the community level as well as at household level due involvement in collective mobilization activities of community forestry programme initiated under Joint forest Management (JFM) by Government of India and various State Governments. The general assumption that process of people participation brings in close interaction and intensifies the trust building exercise and reciprocal exchange, which leads to development of community solidarity. This was assessed by the measurement of social capital of the community engaged in JFM management (horizontal linkage) at micro level. The results revealed that the social capital varied in three states and between the three villages in each state. The intra-village solidarity has increased in villages as benefit flow from the resource management was ensured. Madhya Pradesh being first state to initiate participation showed positive result towards collective action building. In Gujarat social capital was extended from other cooperative activities of the state to forestry management and it resulted in improvement of resource as well as livelihood. Maharashtra showed a mixed picture in social capital development process.