



International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

ISSN Print: 2618-0723
ISSN Online: 2618-0731
NAAS Rating (2026): 5.04
IJAESD 2026; 9(10): 86-88
www.extensionjournal.com
Received: 15-08-2026
Accepted: 19-09-2026
Published: 03-10-2026

YR Pawar

M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, DBSKKV Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

PM Mandavkar

Subject Matter Specialist, Agricultural Extension, KVK, Raigad, Maharashtra, India

RP Mahadik

Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, DBSKKV, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

SS Torane

Ex-Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Horticulture, DBSKKV, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

AS Shigwan

Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, DBSKKV, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

Participation in voluntary institute's programmes and extent of benefits gained by the beneficiaries of Konkan region of Maharashtra

YR Pawar¹, PM Mandavkar², RP Mahadik³, SS Torane⁴, AS Shigwan⁵

DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2026.v9.i10b.4362>

ABSTRACT

The present investigation was undertaken to study the participation of beneficiaries in programmes of the Voluntary Institute named Vivekanand Research and Training Institute (VRTI) and the benefits gained through its developmental interventions in the Konkan region of Maharashtra. An exploratory research design was followed. Raigad and Ratnagiri districts were selected purposively, with Roha and Lote (Khed) sections representing the major operational areas of VRTI. A total of 120 beneficiaries, comprising 60 respondents from each section, were selected purposively in consultation with field-level VRTI personnel. Data were collected through a structured interview schedule using personal interviews. Participation was assessed in terms of inputs received, training attended, implements received and other activities, while benefits were recorded across agriculture, rural development, water resource management, environment, education, animal husbandry and human health. The findings showed comparatively greater beneficiary participation in agriculture-related programmes. In Roha, training participation was particularly evident in organic farming (68.33%), improved agricultural crop technology (58.33%) and natural farming (56.66%). In Lote, training participation was highest in improved agricultural crop technology and organic farming (75.00% each), while fruits and vegetable programmes recorded 76.66 per cent input participation and 73.33 per cent training participation. Among reported benefits, improved farming techniques and training constituted 54.17 per cent, high crop yield 52.50 per cent and increased income 47.50 per cent of the total respondents. Water resource interventions were associated with increased water availability for crops (45.83%) and reduced water scarcity (40.00%). The findings indicate that VRTI's programmes were particularly visible in agriculture and water resource management, while participation and reported benefits varied across other sectors.

Keywords: Participation, Voluntary Institute, Benefits, Beneficiary, Konkan

Introduction

Voluntary institutes have an important place in rural development because of their capacity to work closely with communities, identify local needs and support development activities through participatory approaches. Their role is particularly relevant in areas where geographical conditions, fragmented holdings, limited infrastructure and uneven access to services create difficulties for rural households. In agriculture, voluntary organizations may support farmers through training, demonstrations, input support, natural resource management, livelihood development and market-oriented activities (Bhaskar *et al.* (2001) [1].

The Vivekanand Research and Training Institute (VRTI) is a voluntary organization working in rural development, agriculture, water resource management, women empowerment, education, environment, animal husbandry and health care. In Maharashtra, VRTI operates in Raigad and Ratnagiri districts. The institute's activities in Roha and Lote include farmer training, agricultural demonstrations, land development, water conservation, livelihood and skill development, environmental activities, educational support, animal husbandry and health-related programmes. The institute also works in collaboration with government departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, universities and other organizations.

Participation of beneficiaries provides an important indication of the reach of development programmes, while assessment of benefits helps to understand the outcomes perceived by the people who received or participated in the interventions. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to examine participation in VRTI programmes and the nature and extent of benefits reported by beneficiaries in selected operational areas of the Konkan region of Maharashtra.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the Konkan region of Maharashtra state in the year 2025-26. Raigad and Ratnagiri districts were selected because VRTI undertakes rural development activities in these districts. Roha tehsil of Raigad district and Lote section of Khed tehsil of Ratnagiri district were selected as major op

Corresponding Author:

YR Pawar

M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, DBSKKV Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

erational areas having a comparatively larger number of beneficiaries. All the twenty-three villages from the Roha section and nine villages from the Lote section were considered purposively on the basis of developmental work undertaken by VRTI. From the beneficiary lists obtained from the institute, 60 respondents from each section were selected purposively in consultation with VRTI field personnel, giving a total sample of 120 beneficiaries.

An exploratory research design was used. A structured interview schedule was developed in consultation with experts and institute officials. The beneficiary schedule covered participation in VRTI activities, benefits obtained from different programmes and expectations from the institute. Data were collected through personal interviews. Frequencies and percentages were used for presentation and interpretation of participation and benefit responses. Since participation and benefit items permitted multiple responses, percentages do not necessarily total 100 per cent.

Results and Discussion

Participation varied considerably across programme sectors and between the two operational sections. The participation pattern indicates that agricultural activities formed an important point of contact between VRTI and the beneficiaries, particularly through training and input support.

The data presented in Table 1 indicates that the voluntary institute implemented a diverse range of programmes and activities in Roha and Lote, covering agricultural development, livelihood promotion, women empowerment, education, natural-resource conservation, health and community welfare. In Roha, agricultural training was prominent, particularly improved agricultural crop technology (35 respondents, 58.33%), organic farming (41, 68.33%), and irrigation facilities (32, 53.33%). Inputs were also provided for improved crop technology (22, 36.66%), organic farming (35, 58.33%), fruits/vegetables (19, 31.66%), irrigation facilities and plant distribution (18, 30.00% each), while implements were reported mainly for improved crop technology (2, 3.33%) and water conservation (2, 3.33%).

Table 1. Participation of beneficiaries in VRTI programmes

Programmes/activities	Roha section of VRTI			Lote section of VRTI		
	Inputs	Training	Implements	Inputs	Training	Other
Improved agricultural crop technology	22 (36.66)	35 (58.33)	02 (3.33)	15 (25.00)	45 (75.00)	22 (36.66)
Fruits/Vegetable	19 (31.66)	20 (33.33)	04 (6.66)	46 (76.66)	44 (73.33)	—
Organic farming	35 (58.33)	41 (68.33)	—	01 (1.66)	45 (75.00)	—
Natural farming	—	34 (56.66)	—	02 (3.33)	12 (20.00)	—
Women empowerment (SHGs)	—	10 (16.66)	—	—	05 (8.33)	—
Tailoring	—	08 (13.33)	—	—	07 (11.66)	—
Cake making/Saw training	—	05 (8.33)	—	—	05 (8.33)	—
Soil conservation	—	05 (8.33)	—	—	06 (10.00)	—
Water conservation	—	12 (20.00)	02 (3.33)	01 (1.66)	06 (10.00)	—
Irrigation facilities	18 (30.00)	32 (53.33)	01 (1.66)	31 (51.66)	—	—
Distribution of plants	18 (30.00)	—	—	15 (25.00)	—	—
Adult education	—	05 (8.33)	—	—	08 (13.33)	—
Educational materials	11 (18.33)	—	—	06 (10.00)	—	01 (1.66)
Competitive exam guidance	—	09 (15.00)	—	—	10 (16.66)	—
Poultry farming	08 (13.33)	09 (15.00)	—	12 (20.00)	24 (40.00)	—
Goat farming	07 (11.66)	06 (10.00)	—	—	06 (10.00)	—
Dairy business	—	04 (6.66)	—	—	06 (10.00)	—
Fish farming	—	03 (5.00)	—	—	—	—
Health check-up camp	—	—	—	—	—	32 (53.33)
Vaccination campaign	—	—	—	—	—	15 (25.00)

(Note: Figures are number of beneficiaries with percentage in parentheses. A dash indicates that no response was reported for that category in the source data. Multiple responses were possible.)

In Lote, the major training activities were improved agricultural crop technology (45, 75.00%), organic farming (45, 75.00%), and fruits/vegetables (44, 73.33%). Inputs were particularly reported for fruits/vegetables (46, 76.66%), irrigation facilities (31, 51.66%), plant distribution (15, 25.00%), improved crop technology (15, 25.00%) and poultry farming (12, 20.00%). Other training and livelihood-oriented activities included women empowerment through SHGs, tailoring, cake making/saw training, adult education, competitive examination guidance, goat farming, dairy business and fish farming.

The institute also addressed educational and social needs through educational materials in Roha (11, 18.33%) and Lote (6, 10.00%), while health check-up camps and vaccination campaigns were reported under other activities in Lote, reaching 32 (53.33%) and 15 (25.00%) respondents, respectively. Overall, the findings show that the institute's interventions extended beyond agricultural technology to include

farm inputs, training, agricultural implements, livelihood development, women's empowerment, education, natural-resource conservation, and health and community welfare activities.

Similar results were reported by Gutta (2010) [2] and Sharma *et al.* (2020) [3].

Benefits gained by beneficiaries from VRTI programmes

The findings with respect to benefits gained by the beneficiaries of VRTI is presented in Table 2.

The data revealed that the programmes of the voluntary institute generated multidimensional benefits in agricultural, economic, environmental, educational, livestock and health-related aspects among respondents of Roha and Lote. Overall, the most prominent benefits were improved farming techniques and training (54.17%), high yield in crops (52.50%), increased income (47.50%), improved knowledge of farming (45.00%) and increased water availability (45.83%).

Table 2. Benefits gained by beneficiaries from VRTI programmes

Programme benefits	Roha (N = 60)	Lote (N = 60)	Total (N = 120)
High yield in crops	28 (46.66)	35 (58.33)	63 (52.50)
Improved farming techniques and training	33 (55.00)	32 (53.33)	65 (54.17)
Increased income	21 (35.00)	36 (60.00)	57 (47.50)
Improved knowledge of farming	35 (58.33)	19 (31.66)	54 (45.00)
Employment generation	13 (21.66)	06 (10.00)	19 (15.83)
Skill development and capacity development	16 (26.66)	09 (15.00)	25 (20.83)
Self-independent	09 (15.00)	13 (21.66)	22 (18.33)
Increased water availability for crops	29 (48.33)	26 (43.33)	55 (45.83)
Reduce water scarcity	28 (46.66)	20 (33.33)	48 (40.00)
Increased tree plantation and greenery	10 (16.66)	11 (18.33)	21 (17.50)
Environmental awareness	13 (21.66)	12 (20.00)	25 (20.83)
Education support for children	07 (11.66)	05 (8.33)	12 (10.00)
Awareness and guidance of different exams	04 (6.66)	07 (11.66)	11 (9.66)
Increased students participation in other activities	04 (6.66)	03 (5.00)	07 (5.83)
Increased income from livestock	19 (31.66)	17 (28.33)	36 (30.00)
Increased knowledge and healthcare of animals	12 (20.00)	20 (33.33)	32 (26.66)
Better health awareness among villagers	08 (13.33)	16 (26.66)	24 (20.00)
Better access to healthcare services	07 (11.66)	19 (31.66)	26 (21.66)
Access to low-cost medical checkup	05 (8.33)	06 (10.00)	11 (9.17)

(Note: Figures are number of beneficiaries with percentage in parentheses. Multiple responses were possible; therefore, percentages are not additive.)

At the location level, Roha respondents reported higher benefits in improved knowledge of farming (58.33%), improved farming techniques and training (55.00%), increased water availability (48.33%), high crop yield and reduced water scarcity (46.66% each). In Lote, the major benefits were increased income (60.00%), high crop yield (58.33%) and improved farming techniques and training (53.33%). Livelihood benefits included increased income from livestock (30.00%), skill development and capacity development (20.83%), and self-independence (18.33%). Environmental benefits included reduced water scarcity (40.00%), environmental awareness (20.83%) and increased tree plantation and greenery (17.50%).

The programmes also contributed to education and youth development, through education support for children (10.00%), awareness and guidance regarding different examinations (9.66%) and increased student participation in other activities (5.83%). In the livestock sector, increased knowledge of animal healthcare was reported by 26.66% of respondents. Health-related benefits included better health awareness among villagers (20.00%), better access to healthcare services (21.66%) and access to low-cost medical check-ups (9.17%). Overall, the results demonstrate that the institute's interventions produced benefits extending beyond agricultural productivity to income enhancement, knowledge and skill development, self-reliance, environmental improvement, education, livestock management and healthcare access among the beneficiaries.

The results were found in line with the results of Gomes *et al.* (2012) [4] and Malini (2021) [5].

Conclusion

The study showed that beneficiary participation in VRTI programmes was concentrated particularly in agriculture-related activities, with training and input support forming important modes of engagement. Participation in agriculture was prominent in both Roha and Lote, although the specific activities varied between the two locations. The benefits reported by beneficiaries were also more pronounced in agriculture and water resource management. Improved farming techniques and training, high crop yield, increased income and improved farming knowledge were the major agriculture-related benefits reported by the respondents. Increased water availability for crops and

reduced water scarcity were the principal benefits reported from water resource management activities. Other sectors, including rural development, animal husbandry, environment, education and health, also generated reported benefits, although their frequencies varied.

The findings indicate the importance of continuing need-based training, demonstrations, input support and water-related interventions while strengthening participation in sectors where beneficiary engagement was comparatively limited. Periodic beneficiary feedback and systematic outcome monitoring may help VRTI align programme design with local requirements and document changes over time.

References

1. Bhaskar I, Geethakutty PS. Role of non-governmental organizations in rural development: A case study. *Journal of Tropical Agriculture*. 2001;39(1):52-54.
2. Gutta. Building bridges to self-reliance, adapting the graduation model to optimize benefit for tribal populations in Orissa: 1-55. 2010.
3. Sharma K, Yogi DK. Promoting sustainable agricultural practices through NGO-corporate partnership: Successful Indian experiences. *Indian Journal of Adult Education*. 2020;81(4):161-162.
4. Gomes L, Manna S. Role of NGOs in rural development: An exploratory study in West Bengal. *Asian Journal of Research in Business Economics and Management*. 2012;2(12):214-231.
5. Malini P. Analysis of Constraints Faced by NGO Personnel in Effective Transfer of Agriculture Technology in Udaipur District of Rajasthan. M.Sc. (Ag.) thesis, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur; 2021.

How to cite this article: Pawar Y, Mandavkar P, Mahadik R, Torane S, Shigwan A. Participation in voluntary institute's programmes and extent of benefits gained by the beneficiaries of Konkan region of Maharashtra. *International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development*. 2026;9(10):86-88. doi: <https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2026.v9.i10b.4362>