

**A Study on the Access, Use and Impact of Cooperative Investment Credit on the Tribal
Population of Wayanad**

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Executive Summary

The project work entitled “A Study on the Access, Use and Impact of Cooperative Investment Credit on the Tribal Population of Wayanad” aimed at analyzing the accessibility of bank credit by the Tribal community of Wayanad and its utilization. The study focused on the following objectives:

- To study the accessibility of cooperative investment credit by the tribes of Wayanad.
- To study the utilization pattern of credit by the tribes
- To study the over all impact of credit on the tribal population of Wayanad
- To have an overview of the various services provided by primary CARD Banks in Wayanad

The study reveals that almost half of the tribal community is unaware of the banking facilities provided by the cooperatives. The accessibility to credit is also limited. The reasons for the reduced or limited access to credit is the limited land holdings of the tribes and lack of awareness among the people about the facilities. The reducing significance of agriculture has also contributed to the poor demand for loans provided by Cooperative investment credit. Even though the people from tribal community avails credit, they utilize it for meeting household expenses. The diversification of loan amount is not the case of tribes alone. The increase in the overdue position of these banks can be attributed to the misutilisation of funds for non productive purposes. The credit facility availed has helped in increasing level of income of tribes and they are ready to utilize the income for making improvement in the land and purchase of agricultural implements.

Findings

- The tribes in Wayanad has less access to credit facility provided by the cooperative banks

- Though most of the people in the tribal community are aware of the lending schemes and the institutions providing these facilities, majority of them hesitate to avail loans for their money requirements.
- The tribes who have accessed credit find it difficult due to the long procedural delay.
- These banks take around one month for sanctioning loan amount and upto 7 days for sanctioning the loans.
- The tribes in Wayanad are no exception. Like many other borrowers, some of them has diversified the loans availed.
- People use the loan amount to meet household expenses and to settle previous debt.
- The credit facility availed has helped in increasing level of income of tribes and they are ready to utilize the income for making improvement in the land and purchase of agricultural implements.

The tribal community of Wayanad who were not aware of the credit facilities available to them could be made aware as part of the field work of this project. Though a smaller section, they were totally unaware of the schemes provided to them by cooperative credit institutions and the various technical helps provided by these banks. Creating awareness for enhancing the standard of living of tribes in Wayanad is the major contribution made by the project to the society. Through this project the social workers can understand the level of piercing of banking services among the down trodden social group.