



ASSESSMENT OF PILOT STUDY ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA (PMUY) ON TRIBAL WOMEN IN SELECTED TALUKAS IN NANDED

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RESEARCH ARTICLE



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Abstract

Background: PMUY is a process to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of women living in rural areas. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in May 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with the objective of ensuring availability of clean cooking fuels like LPG to rural and underprivileged households.

Objective: The primary objective of the study is to analyze the impact of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana on the economic status of women of Tribal community district. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana aims to provide free cooking gas connections to women living below the poverty line.

Sample Population: A total of 142 samples were the target population of the study. The population included in the research included tribal women of selected taluka of Nanded district of Maharashtra, beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

Tools of the Study: Self-administered Interview Schedule (Marathi version) was used to measure Economic status of beneficiaries of PMUY who are belong to Tribal community. Interview Schedule includes six questions namely, Improvement in purchasing decisions, any increase in physical assets like livestock, jewelry etc., easy access to financial institutions, increase in annual income, habit of saving and capital formation, increase in movable and immovable assets

Technique of Data collection: Data was collected through demographic information and interview schedule from women living in tribal area in selected taluka in Nanded district of Maharashtra.

Results: The result shows that Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is playing an important role in improving the economic status of tribal women. The respondent also said that their tendency to save money has improved.

Keywords: PMUY, Economic Aspect, Tribal, Women, Saving

Introduction

There are many schemes started by the government of India, the name of one very beneficial scheme is "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana". The scheme was launched on the occasion of International Labor Day on 1st May 2016 (Aggarwal, Kumar, & Tiwari, 2018). Under this scheme, the Government of India will provide free or low rate LPG to the poor women living in villages and cities (James, Shetty, Kamath & Shetty, 2020). PMUY is a process to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of women living in rural areas (Ahmad, Sharma, & Singh, 2018). Through this scheme, the government is aiming to enrich the economic status of the poor as well as women empowerment and expanding health efficiency to them (Kar, & Zerriffi, 2018; Kumar et.al., 2017; Pandey & Parthasarathy, 2019; Pillai, & Ammal, 2017; Sharma, Parikh, & Singh, 2019). Due to this scheme, many rural people who are using harmful energy for cooking will benefit, similarly urban and semi-urban people who use LPG as cooking energy will also benefit (Swain, & Mishra, 2019, Yadav et.al. 2020). The objective of the scheme is to provide efficient cooking energy to people living below BPL. Government launched targeted subsidy of Rs 200/- per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year (and proportionately for 5 kg connection) to PMUY consumers in May 2022 for economic savings of poor section of women. In October 2023, the government increased the targeted subsidy to '₹300 per 14.2 kg cylinder' for up to 12 refills per year (and proportionately for 5 kg connections). PMUY scheme will help them to save Rs 1600 from their income so that they can use for other purposes as the objective of the scheme is mentioned that the monetary supply of Rs 1600 per year will be provided by the government to the women living under BPL. (Bansal, M., Saini & Khatod, (2013), Devi, (2017). The PMUY has provided a big boost to the social and economic condition of the country. People who belongs to the specific category are now having the clean fuel to cook food (Kumar et.al., 2017; Pandey & Parthasarathy, 2019; Pillai, & Ammal, 2017). The economic status of tribal women in most areas is significantly lower than that of women in the general area, often characterized by, low income levels due to primarily subsistence-based agriculture, lack of property rights, low literacy rates, limited access to health care and limited participation in decision-making, placing them among the most marginalized groups in society. Despite contributing heavily to agricultural work and domestic work, their economic contribution is often not fully recognized. PMUY has given a big boost to the social and economic condition of the tribal woman. tribal class of people now have access to clean fuel for cooking (Swain, & Mishra, 2019, Tripathi, 2019; Yadav et.al. 2020). No research has been conducted so far in this topic, therefore investigator is conducted the study on the present topic.

Methods

Target Population and Study Area: According to the 2011 census, the tribal population in Nanded district of Maharashtra was 8.38% of the total population. It was 9.88% in rural areas and 4.37% in urban areas. Nanded district of Maharashtra has a significant tribal population. Kinwat, Hadgaon and Bhokar talukas of Nanded have the highest tribal population. The research sample includes beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme residing in Kinwat, Himayatnagar and Mahur taluka of Nanded district. A total of 142 beneficiaries of PMUY were the target population of the study.

Sampling Method: The sampling method was a purposive method of sampling design for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme, the sample size of the study was 142 women who are from the tribal community.

Source of Data: The sampling method was a purposive method of sampling design for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme, the sample size of the study was 142 women who are from the tribal community. In collecting data, the researcher follows ethical guidelines, principles, and standards for studies conducted with humans. The study included safeguards to protect human beings, including three key ethical principles: beneficence, respect for human dignity, and human justice.

Research Design: The primary objective of the study is to analyze the impact of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana on the economic status of Tribal women. This study involves in descriptive survey with socio-demographic information and Interview schedule from beneficiary of PMUY. The research design of the study is descriptive survey.

Tools of the study: The following tools were used for present study are as:

Socio-demographic interview schedule: The demographic information about, Financial status, Annual Income, and annual saving was obtained before seeking responses.

Interview schedule: For measure the economic aspect of tribal women Self-administered Interview Schedule (Marathi version) was used. A well-structured interview schedule makes analysis and interpretation easy and quick. The interview schedule for the study has been designed keeping in mind the perspective of the beneficiaries A self-structured interview schedule used for the present study is designed to help meet the research objective as well as make it easy and convenient for the respondents to give valuable and necessary information.

The interview schedule includes the following questions which shown below in Table -1

Sr.No.	Economic Dimension	Technique of Responses
1	Improvement in purchasing decisions	3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree
2	increase in physical assets like livestock, jewellery etc	3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree
3	easy access to financial institutions	3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree
4	increase in annual income	3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree
5	habit of saving and capital formation	3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree
6	increase in movable and immovable assets	3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree

Scoring: Responses to the questions were given on a 3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree. The values for each question were added together to score PMUY-health status. This was followed by a summary of the values for each category. Then the values from each of the five categories were added together. The next values for each category were added together. Finally, summing the values across categories resulted in a total h score. Pearson's product moment coefficient was used to determine the correlation between interview schedule categories and initial overall perceived response ratings. Percentage was calculated for all demographic variables.

Results and Discussion

The results concerning this are presented in the form of tables and also illustrated with the help of suitable figures as annual income, annual saving and responses regarding the dimension of financial aspect.

Table –2. Annual Income of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

Sr.No.	Income in Rs. (Yearly)	Percentage (%)
1	More than 10000	21.12%
2	Less than 15000	22.53%
3	Less than 18000	26.05%
4	Less than 20000	19.71%
5	Less than 25000	10.56%

Table-2 shows the Annual income of tribal women who are beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

Figure –1. shows the Annual income of tribal women who are beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

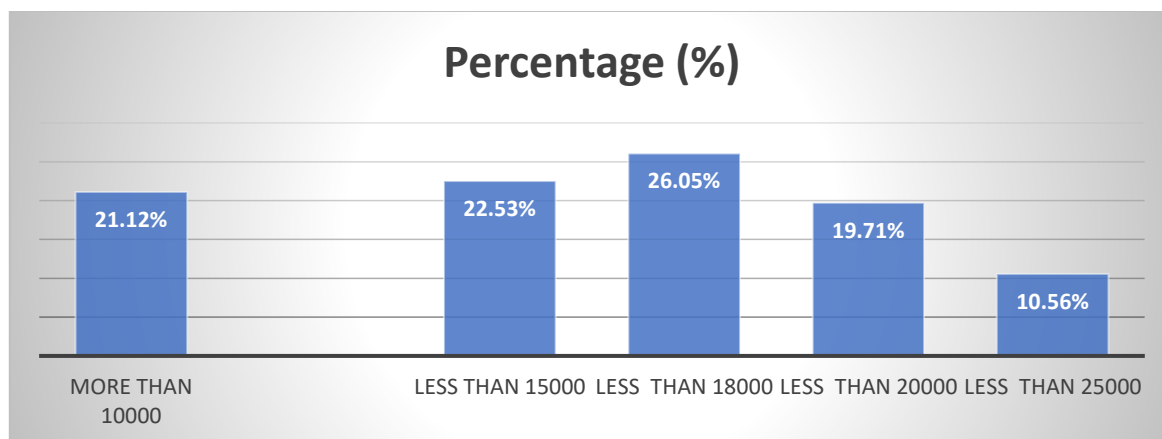


Table 3, shows the Annual saving in the income of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

Sr.No.	Saving (Rs.)	Percentage
1	Below than 2000	19.71%
2	More than 2000	23.94%
3	More than 2500	22.53%
4	More than 3000	21.83%
5	More Than 3500	24.64%

Table-3 shows the percentage of annual savings of tribal women beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

Figure-2 shows the percentage of annual savings of tribal women beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

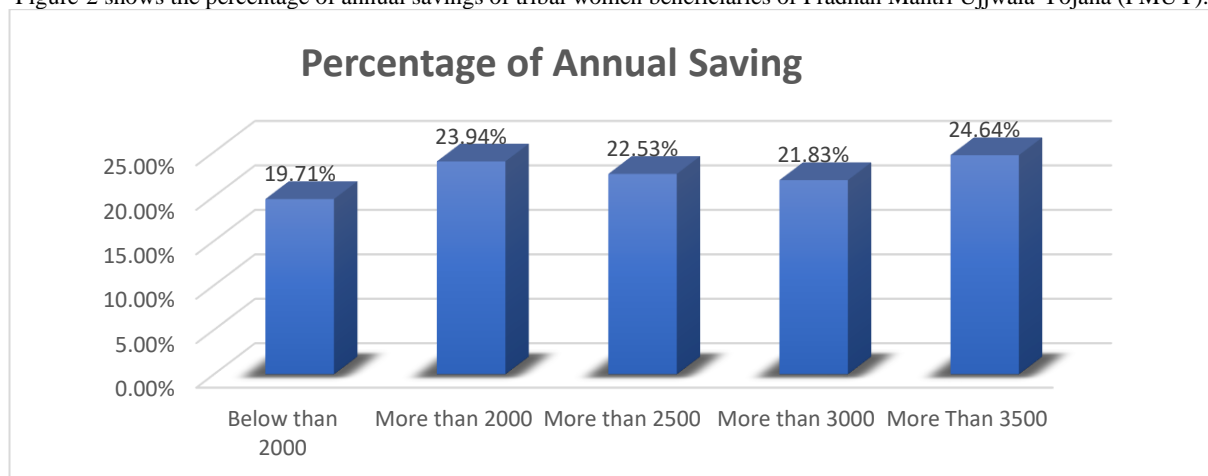
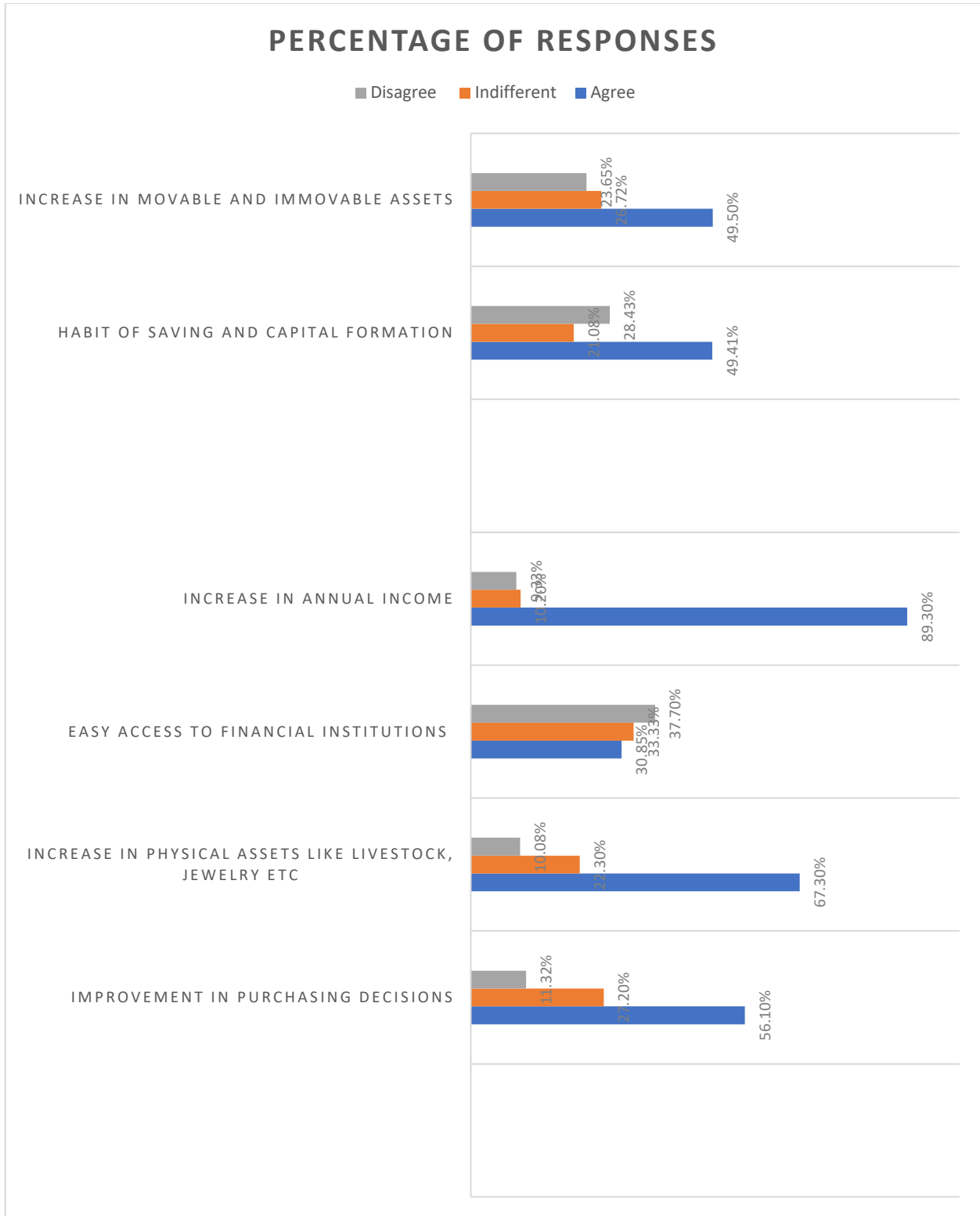


Table 4- shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana with respect to economic dimensions

Sr.No.	Economic Dimension	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree
1	Improvement in purchasing decisions	56.10%	27.20%	11.32%
2	Increase in physical assets like livestock, jewellery etc	67.30%	22.30%	10.08%
3	Easy access to financial institutions	30.85%	33.33%	37.70%
4	Increase in annual income	89.30%	10.20%	09.33%
5	Habit of saving and capital formation	49.41%	21.08%	28.43%
6	Increase in movable and immovable assets	49.50%	26.72%	23.65%

Table 4 shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana with respect to economic dimensions.

Figure -3 shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana with respect to economic dimensions



Discussion

The findings show that, 21.12% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMAY) have an income of more than Rs 10000 per month. In addition , 22.53% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMAY) reported that they have more than Rs 15000 per year. Further , 26.05% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) reported that their income is less than ₹ 18000 per year, moreover 19.71% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) reported that their income is less than ₹ 20000 per year. However, 10.56% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) reported that their income is less than Rs 25000 per year.

The results show that, 19.71% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) reported that they have saved less than Rs 2000. Whereas, 23.94% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) were reported to have saved more than Rs 2000. Meanwhile, 22.53% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) reported that they have saved more than Rs 2500. While 21.83% of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries were reported to have saved more than Rs 3000 and 24.64% of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries were reported to have saved more than Rs 3500. The findings of the study show that, beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) were saved more Rs. 3500 respectively.

The results show that 56.10% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed to improve the purchasing decisions under economic dimensions, while 27.20% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed indifference on improving the purchasing decisions. On the other hand, 11.32% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement on improving purchasing decisions.

Similarly, 67.30% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed that there is no increase in physical assets like livestock, jewelry etc. under economic dimensions, while 22.30% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed that there is no increase in physical assets like livestock, jewelry etc. have expressed indifference on the increase. On the other hand, 10.08% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement over any increase in material assets like livestock, jewelry etc. On the other hand, 30.85% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed that there is no increase in physical assets like livestock, jewelry etc. under economic dimensions.

Whereas 33.33% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed indifference on any increase in material assets like livestock, jewelry etc. On the other hand, 37.70% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement over any increase in material assets like livestock, jewelry etc. Moreover, 89.30% of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries have agreed on the increase in annual income under economic dimensions, while 10.20% of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries have expressed indifference on the increase in annual income. On the other hand, 09.33% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement over the increase in annual income. Moreover, 49.41% of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries have expressed agreement on the savings habit and capital formation under economic dimensions, while 21.08% of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries have expressed indifference on the savings habit and capital formation. On the other hand, 28.43% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement on the habit of saving and capital formation. The results show that, 49.50% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed on the increase in movable and immovable assets under economic dimensions, whereas 26.72% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed indifference on the increase in movable and immovable assets have expressed, On the other hand, 23.65% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement over the increase in movable and immovable assets. In our rural Indian societies, such as most of tribal India, women are assigned the responsibility of domestic duties, As caretakers of their home, they look after children and relatives, prepare meals for their family, participating in agriculture work and manage the home (Mhamia 2016). The PMUY is an ambitious social welfare scheme of the Narendra Modi government that aims to provide LPG connections to BPL households across the country. It aims to provide five crore LPG connections over three years to BPL households, with a subsidy of Rs. 1,600 per connection.

Conclusions

The most of the tribal women have agreed to Improvement in purchasing decisions, increase in physical assets like livestock, jewellery etc., easy access to financial institutions, increase in annual income, habit of saving and capital formation, and increase in movable and immovable assets shows that the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has improved the economic aspect of tribal women. Apart from this, the respondent also said that their tendency to save money has improved.

Limitations of the study

A limitation of this study is that it reflects findings from three talukas. The data was collected in three talukas with small populations, so the results cannot be generalized to other places in the country. The results of this study are limited to a relatively small preliminary survey of self-reported interview schedules rather than a study of actual behavior. Thus, participants may have answered questions in a socially desirable manner to avoid personal inadequacies.

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