



**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT
AND ALLIED SCIENCES (IJBMAS)**
A Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

PROGRAMMES OF DWCRA AND THEIR IMPACT ON S.C, ST WOMEN

Dr. M. VIJAYALAKSHMI

Reader in Commerce, Hindu College, Guntur.



Article Info:

Received on:10/08/2014

Revised on:19/08/2014

Accepted on:27/08/2014

ABSTRACT

In India the rural women constitute 75% of the Total population and out of these at least 80% participate in Economic Activities but this fact does not find place in our census reports. Absolute poverty and economic compulsion have forced women particularly belonging to SC, ST, OBC and other economically weaker sections of rural society to unskilled and menial workers, requiring more labour hours for which they earn a paltry sum.

The Government has been emphasizing the need for development of rural women and their involvement in the development activities. Constant efforts are being made by the Government to include women, particularly households headed by women below the poverty line under different scheme's One such scheme is "Development of women and children in Rural Areas" (DWCRA) as a scheme of IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme) in Sep, 1982. The scheme is promoted by the central and the state governments with the co-sponsorship of UNICEF (United Nations International Children Emergency Fund). The scheme was first introduced in 50 districts of the country, designed as an innovative scheme for involving women into development process.

DWCRA stands for development of women and children in rural areas. Government programmes for women development in India began as early as 1954. Initially they were conceived in traditional frame work. Their full time participation in economic activities began with the 1974 report of the committee on the status of women in India. Later in 1982 DWCRA was launched as a pilot programme in 50 selected districts to strength women's economic power.

The objective of the Programmes is to raise the income level of women's of poor households and top focus attention on women members of rural families, SC ST Communities, below the poverty line, with a view to providing them opportunities for self-employment on a substantial basis. It is also supposed to provide other services to improve women's quality life and also assist in improving child hood.

The force behind these programmes may be father of Nation. Gandhi made the Harijan Cause his own and compelled the congress to adopt it as an integral part of its programme. It was the mission of his life to Purge Hinduism of this evil and to remove this blot from its face.

DWCRA as a sub scheme of the IRDP (Integral Rural Development Programme) is a group strategy, the women of the poor families, backward communities and SC ST form groups of 10-15 each for taking up economic activities suited to their skill, aptitude and the local conditions IRDP provides the benefits of loan and subsidy to individual members and each group of women is given a lump sum one time grant of Rs 25000/- as revolving fund. Both central and state governments contribute this amount in the ratio of 3:2. Training to these SHGS [Self Help Groups] is also an important part of implementation of programmes. The success of DWCRA will depend largely on the understanding and appreciation of the entire DWCRA team about the scheme having an effective role in the success of poverty eradication programme.

The selection of a particular programme is left to the members. They select according to their skill, aptitude, and local demand and also consider the following things-

1. Profitability.
2. Easy sales.
3. Prior acquisition of necessary skills through training.
4. Easy nature of the activity.
5. Caste occupation.

The following allied and non-farm activities are covered by the DWCRA animal husbandry, agricultural activities, agarbatthi making. Brass items, baskets, bags, beekeeping, candles, can items, carpets, chappals, chilli powder. Dairy, embroidery, Fruit processing, fish processing, goat rearing, hosiery, knitting, khadi, leather items, match box making, mushroom growing, plastic items, pickles. papads. Poultry. Piggery. Readymade garments, spinning and weaving activities, toys. Tailoring, vegetable processing, woollen items etc.

DWCRA BAZARS, Shopping Complexes were provided to DWCRA groups to eliminate middle men and transfer the benefit to consumers. On the other hand these BAZARS are useful to the DWCRA women as infrastructure. Throughout the India 5.10 lakh DWCRA groups are working out of this 4-2-3 lakh groups are working in our state. The following facts indicate the significance and the place occupied by the DWCRA in our state.

- a. No. of women participating in the savings schemes is 56.48 lakhs, whereas this number is 1 crore in the world. The % is 56.48.
- b. The amount saved by these groups is Rs 64 crores.
- c. The corpus fund is Rs 1200 crores out of it Government share is Rs 560 crores.
- d. 48,567 DWCRA groups are working in urban areas.
- e. DWCRA BAZARS are opened in all Districts.
- f. 826 Mahila Banks are working at Mandal level.
- g. NABARD sanctioned loans to 1,17,352 groups during 2011-2012.
- h. 12 lakh Gas Connections to DWCRA women under 'Deepam Scheme'.
- i. Scheduled caste women's 54 Crs are 22,280 and DWCRA groups are 2 lakhs.
- j. Scheduled Tribe women Self Help Groups are 5,226 and DWCRA groups are 5,736.

In our state nearly 58% of the women involved in the productions. In which 63% of women are scheduled castes 12% are scheduled tribes. More than 75% of the women are belonging to the poor families. Employment is a must for the women belong to SC, ST and rural areas to make them economically independent. It will enable them to stand on their feet. The society will bound to recognize their inherent qualities and worth and their inalienable rights. Then they will start getting respect from their family members as well.

When India began to plan for its future development, it was clearly understood that the upliftment of SC ST women is an equally important factor for the nation's development. The record budget 2012-2013 has very nicely integrated empowering below poverty line families enlarging scope of SHGS and welfare of women of SC/ST.

DWCRA programmes has much more impact on illiterate SC & ST women. All the members in the study area, have crossed the poverty line with an additional income generated by the DWCRA. In some cases the income of the DWCRA members had become main source to the total family income. They are capable of increasing their income and generating assets. The earning capacity of SC ST women improving their nutrition, health, education, safe drinking water, sanitation and social status.

Awareness of SC ST women of various development programmes and interaction with officials is no doubt a welfare sign of growing empowerment of women. But still these groups are facing some problems-

1. Sometimes the market fluctuations are very high for their products. However they seemed to be satisfied with the prices in respective of their products in the market.
2. Scarcity of raw material.
3. Low prices of some products.
4. Lack of proper guidance, adequate knowledge about modern enterprises.
5. The entrepreneurs from DWCRA categories had stagnated their enterprises and 65% of them appeared in unemployment position again.

It is clear that several efforts have been made to improve their lot but conditions have not yet changed to the extent desired. The DWCRA women groups have to develop their capacity to adjust to the market changes and develop negotiating skill to sustain their activities.

"There is no charge for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women improve. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing."- Swamy Vivekananda.

Fifty four years after India's independence and despite of efforts by the state and civil society, gender megalifies remain while ideas of women's equality may have gained currency in public life, and mass discourses, these have radically changed social attitudes. The macro data relating to the issues like health education and employment substained the above statement. Hence this paper puts a question mark on our intentions as to whether we are really concerned about the welfare of the mangelised and vulnerable sections of our society.

The office of the census commission her mapped the status of women in India using variables like sex ratio, health, female literacy rate_ percentage of female workers in the organized and unorganized sector. What emerged was that women of India have low status. Constitutional provisions for legal equality wont moulder much as long as. Indian society remains male dominated. Women are systematically denied of their due. This denial begins not early in life but even before life takes its form and shape. In most countries, the sex ratio is feminine but not in India in general and at anny age group. Table 1 and 2 respectively throw light upon this)

The man reason for this decline in sex ratio, noted by demographer Marhni Karkal is. The abortions of female foet uses that are widely practices-, despite the recent order of the supreme court against prenatal sex debercivation and sex selective abortion. The paradoxical point to be noted while the slight improvement in the sex ratio in the latest census is widely publicised, the concealed worse news is the sex ratio of children up to the age of sex (has gone down 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001.

The National health policy framed nearly two decades ago in 1983 vowed inter alia to setup a comprehensive health care system to serve the natural health needs and priorities of this country especially vulnerable sections-. What remains of the vow? The following macro data enlightens us.

How many people know that 1,00,000 Indian Women due of programming related causes every year? The maternal mortality ratio is 50 times higher than developed countries and 6 times higher than neighbouring Srilanka. Due to haemorrhage, anaemia, eclampsia, pregnancy related hyper tension, infection abortion and abducted labour. This is perhaps the answer Prof Amartya Sen's concept of nurse ring women.

According to All India Medical Information Survey 1991 in all most all age groups till 24 years of age, the death of female child caused by almost all diseases is more compared to their counter parts.

A look at the following table 3 reveals the quivering information.

EDUCATION:

"Sa Vidyaya Vimuktaye" Education sets us truly free from all that blocks our mental growth. But still educational megalifies between female and male are very profound and are a great inhibiting factor in the economic and social confidence of women. According to 2001 census, male literacy rate is 75.85% female literacy rate is just 54.16%.

The following table shows the inequalities in the male and female literacy rates in both urban and rural areas.

The analysis drawn is at any age group either in rural or in urban area, the female educational levels are lower than their counter parts.

Employment: In rural India men work for eight hours a day while women for 16 to 18 hours a day. In Rajastan and Bengal 9-14 year old girls spend eight hours in domestic work compared to less than 3 hours by a day. There are 3 million people in tribal belts of Central India who earn their livelihood by head loading 90% of them are women.

Most of India's workforce is on the informal sector and women constitute only 28.6% of the recorded workforce. Large majority of women who work in household dairy, livestock units, fisheries domestic services, vending and trading are not captured in the macro data as they are in the informal sector which is largely unprotected and outside the reason of policy making. The following table supports the above information.

Table 1: Employment in the organised and unorganised sectors-2001

	Organized	Unorganized	Total
Males	229.53	2014.11	2243.64
Percentage	10.23	89.77	71.42
Females	37.81	859.86	897.67
Percentage	4.21	95.79	28.58
Total	267.34	2873.87	3141.31
Percentage	8.51	91.49	100

Source: 2001 Population Census

The last part of this paper discusses about how the gender inequalities and discrimination is depriving the tribal women of their due in the employment markets. This is done with the back drop of globalized labour markets. The globalization and the resultant new economic policies in India have a deep impact on the women of the resource dependent communities in 3 main areas. Commercialization of agriculture privatization and commercialization of forest lands and other common property resources and displacement caused by development projects.

Commercialization of land

An integral part of liberalisation is commercial exploitation of natural resources.

The main thrust of W.T.O agreement of agriculture is its commercial orientation.

Therefore the major part of the scarce resource land is used for commercial crops leading to a fall in food availability. This will give further fillip to price rise. Another reason for price rise is I.M.F conditionality supported by the W.T.O agreement of not subsidizing staple food. The price rise is bound to have disastrous effects on weaker sections in general and women among them in particular due to gender differentials within the households in access to essential items like food and health care- Malnutrition is a major problem that women face because they eat whatever is left after feeding their children and husband. A newspaper report (Times of India July 2nd 1997) gives us the plight of women of Uttarakhand (where the famous Bhopal gas tragedy had taken place) are highly malnourished and susceptible to diseases due to drastic cut in food grains supply from the center under the new public distribution system which is the result of globalization and privatization.

Commercial forestry and women

The tribal family has traditionally got more than 50% of its food from the forests in the form of non-timber forest food products (NTFP). Because of globalization policies the natural resource dependent communities are being systematically deprived of their lands and forests since forests are turned into commercial tree plantations. The costs of degradation and declining availability of forests and other village common resources are disproportionately borne by women and girl children among the forest dwellers. They have to walk longer distances to collect fuel fodder and water. Compared to 1980's study of Orissa and Chhattisgarh data now showed the distance of forests have increased from an average of 1 km to 7 Km. As a result, the housewife whose traditional duty is to ensure the regular supply of food, water, fodder, and fertilizer has to walk more to collect less food than in the past. Due to gender biases in the distribution of food within the family. Made the women worst sufferers.

Displacement and the women

Many studies have shown negative impact of displacement on tribal women. The tribal women exercise greater control over the family economy since she acquires abundant resources for the survival needs of the family. When the land and other common resources are used for development takes place- she loses her status in the family. Some projects give one job for displaced family and it invariably goes to man considered as head of the family. When the land for land is given as compensation, it is only on the name of the man. Power in the form of land passes from the man to the son, thus the women who had some power in the traditional market system now lose it with the changed mode of the markets. Thus it is the unequal distribution of power authority and resources within the economy that make the market based operations inequitable.

Conclusion

Indian ethos generable the status of women. In order to change this the parents, teachers, policy marks and politicians, general public have to attack the basic social constnctants or patriarchy and should understand it is imperative to make the very existence of the women worth whole for development what to say of their empowerment.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Banerjee 1999 - 'women in the emerging labour market'-The Indian Journal of Labour Economics Oct-Dec Vol 42 no 4.
- [2]. Debesh Ray - Roles and status of women workers in Agro Industrail Context-Man in India, Jan-June 2001 Vol 81 no 1&2.
- [3]. Garlomoved - 'Hindu Nationalism and Women II' the Hindu April 28 2000.
- [4]. Kamalkanth 1997-'Structural adjustment policy and women in the labour markets' Women's link, Oct-Dec Vol 3 no 4.
- [5]. Mona Khare, Arun Prabha Khare-'The Socio Cultural ethos of gender bras' Women's link, Oct- Dec 2001 Vol 7 no 4.
- [6]. Nandita Singh, 'Land venure Society and gender discrimination' -Man in India Jan- June 2001 Vol 81 no 1 & 2 pp153 to 155
- [7]. Pamela Bhagat - 1999 - 'Gender Equilaity'- Documentation on women, Child and Human rights Apr -June.
- [8]. Dr. Ravi Sankar, M.Parguman, women's development policy and gender inequality myth and reality - Kurukshetra Jan2002.
- [9]. Radhika D Srivastava — 'Girls are second class citizens everywhere' Documentation of women child and human rights Jan—Mar.
- [10]. Sandhya Srinivasan — "Silent Sufferers' One man —One people July 2001 Vol 4/12 pp 8,9
- [11]. Tyagi Ombeer Singh 2010—'Women's empowerment: A macro Perceptore' Women's link Jan—Mar Vol 16 No 1
- [12]. Walter Fernandes and Indrani Chondari 1997—'Liberalization the environment and impact of women' — Women's link Oct—Dec Vol 13 no 4.