PREFACE

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) programme was started in India in 1982-83 with the primary objective of focussing attention on the women members of rural families below poverty line with a view to provide them with opportunities of self-employment on a sustained basis. The women members of DWCRA form groups of 10 to 15 women each for taking up economic activities suited to their skill, aptitude and the local conditions. The basic objective of this group strategy is to motivate the rural women to come together and to break social bonds which had denied them income generating and self-fulfilling opportunities. Thus, the emphasis of this programme is on developing women's potential for participation in national development through awareness generation, skill development and income generating activities which provide not only the desired economic independence to women but also to improve their quality of life, and through them, of the family and society.

This study attempts to present an evaluation of the DWCRA programme operating in Rohtak district of Haryana. The approach in the study is to see the related activities in a three-fold context:-

(i) In the larger framework of DWCRA objectives, i.e., what the national-level understanding of the objectives is and whether these sets of activities are appropriate and adequate from the perspective;
(ii) In the limited framework of implementation, monitoring and performances, i.e., what the district-level understanding of the programme is and whether they are able to achieve what they wish to do; and

(iii) In the context of a developmental-intervention approach for women and children who form a sizeable proportion of our population and constitute the most important source for human resource development.

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(SUPRABHA)