ABSTRACT

TRYSEM is a potent tool for making the poor Scheduled Caste women become more productive by acquiring skills which generate employment. No doubt, this programme roped in Scheduled Caste women in a much larger proportion (55%) than the prescribed minimum of 50 per cent. Two-thirds of the trained women were based in their homes while the remaining one-third were non-traceable. The status of such women and the utilisation of their trained knowledge for self employment generation is a matter of conjecture. Barring a small segment who dropped out, all the other trainees (87%) successfully completed the training in several trades offered. Further, nearly half of the Scheduled Caste women who underwent the training were satisfied about their training but a substantial share of their unsatisfied counterparts causes concern.

Similarly, about two-thirds of the trained women were found employed, largely in wage employment (50%) but those engaged in self employment (14%) were marginal. However, reduction in unemployment from 42 to 36 per cent after attending TRYSEM training reveals its poor impact on reducing unemployment among the target groups. Moreover, its impact on augmenting the income of trainees, employed with help of TRYSEM training is also mild (RS. 231/- p.m.) and below the
subsistence level. Availability of financial support from the
Government (Banks and Blocks) to only 10 per cent of the
TRYSEM trainees, and provision of tool kits to hardly two per
cent trainees are an ample proof of poor post-training care
and support. Nearly, two out of every five trainees,
therefore remained unemployed even after their TRYSEM
training.

Implementation of TRYSEM programme bristled with
problems—mainly in the form of delay in the payment of
stipend, long distance to training centres from, home,
unauthorised deduction from their stipend by the training
institution, unsold products made during the training period
and non-issuance of certificate several months after
completion of the training programme. Typical of any other
development programme, TRYSEM programme too has had both
bright and dark spots. In short, TRYSEM has had operational
problems greater than the prospects and there is vast scope
for minimising the problems and maximising the prospects. As
an offshoot, the present study presents a conceptualised
model for implementing the programme in four stages, viz.,
Pre-planning, Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and
Evaluation, wherein every stage has a set of sequential steps
for solving the problems confronting TRYSEM currently.