



CHAPTER – 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

India has adopted unique measures to promote equality and development of women and has number of legislations to protect the interests of women and encouraging their participation in national development. It is clear from the analysis that the percentage of literacy rate in Kurnool district is less than state average 61.11 among them women literates are very low 50.81 per cent compared to men 71.36 per cent and female literacy in rural areas is only 40.6 per cent which is half of the literacy rate in urban areas. Even though the women constitute a major workforce in India, their work is unacknowledged or under developed.

In view of the low status of women, the Government of India have launched several programmes for the development of women especially the programme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas with the objective of improving the status and quality of life of poor women and children in rural areas and enabling woman to improve their earning capacity with the following objectives:

1. Improving the status and quality of life of poor women and children in the rural areas.
2. Enabling women to improve their earning capacity.
3. Improving the impact of ongoing development programmes by stimulating, supplementing, strengthening and integrating them.
4. Involving the community in planning and implementing the programme so that need based development activity will be carried on by the communities even after outside assistance is withdrawn.

The above programme is being implemented in Kurnool district since 1983-84. Kurnool district is one the drought prone district of Andhra Pradesh. It lies between the Northern Latitudes of $14^{\circ} 54'$ and $16^{\circ} 18'$ and the eastern longitudes 76°

58¹ and 79⁰ 34¹. The total geographical area of the district is 17658 Sq. kms. With a cultivable area of 10.34 lakhs acres. The district has 4.63 per cent of the state population. The percentage of males is 50.41 and the percentage of female is 49.58.

In order to improve the living conditions of the poor, the Government of India and Andhra Pradesh have implemented programmes like IRDP, TRYSEM, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and DWCRA in the district. In Kurnool district under TRYSEM programme 5494 Rural Youth were provided training to take-up the self-employment programme during 2003-10.

Integrated Rural Development Programme is another important programme implemented in the district. It is evident from the analysis that 53,660 beneficiaries were provided assistance under IRDP in Kurnool district.

The Government of India has launched Jawahar Rozgar Yojana programme in the year 1989 and the same year was implemented in the district. It is evident from the analysis that majority of the funds earmarked for JRY were utilized for the development of the poor in the district.

The scheme of development of women and children in rural area is being implemented in the district since 1983-84. The main objective of this programme is to raise the income level of women poor households and involve them in social development. The analysis reveals that the rate of achievement in the coverage of beneficiaries is very high in all the years. During the period 1983-84 and 2009-10, 13.75 per cent belongs to Scheduled Castes, 6.16 per cent belongs to Scheduled Tribes.

It is evident from the analysis that out of the 1134 groups covered under DWCRA in the selected villages in Peapully Mandal in Kurnool district. only 0.96 per cent of the groups were selected for assistance and provided assets in the selected mandal. Even though the Peapully Mandal is backward, no special provisions were made to encourage the rural women belonging to scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes to improve their income and employment.

The Mandal Peapully is a backward Mandal with a population of 67,080. The percentage of literate women in the mandal accounted to 49.0 per cent only. The net area irrigated in two seasons is 200 Sq.Kms. It is evident from the data that among the age group between 22 years and 60 years the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Castes and Other Castes beneficiaries are more in number. It is also significant to note that among the illiterates the Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries stood first followed by Scheduled Castes, Backward Castes. The data also reveals that none of the selected beneficiaries possess unirrigated land of 1 to 2 acres and only 40 per cent of the beneficiaries possess agriculture equipment. It is also evident that 42.18 per cent of the beneficiaries are under debts . Which clearly shows that the poor rural women suffer from heavy indebtedness.

Strategies to improve the living conditions of the rural poor in all their aspects and dimensions have been an integral part of the planning process in India. It is evident from the previous chapters that the Scheduled Caste Women and Scheduled Tribe Women are suffering from various evils like low literacy level, meager land-holding, rural indebtedness. Even though the Government of India have been launching various schemes and providing subsidies due to poor socio-economic

background, these rural women are not able to seize the benefits provided by the Government and could not generate sufficient income from the various programmes.

In order to raise their income level they were provided assistance under DWCRA. The total number of beneficiaries covered in the selected villages in Peapully Mandal from 2002- 03 to 2008 – 09 are 1134. The rate of increase in drawing the beneficiaries is uneven. Majority of the rural women were provided assistance for Rope Making, Coal Making, Stone Cutting and Leaf Plate Making, followed by vegetable vending, business, Milk and curd vending, basket making, flower vending. Among the Scheduled Castes rural women, majority of them were provided assistance for Rope Making and stone cutting only. In case of Scheduled Tribe women, majority of the beneficiaries were provided assistance for savaralu making, leaf plate making only. It is evident from the analysis that out of 40 Scheduled Caste beneficiaries, the higher number of the beneficiaries. i.e. 37.5 per cent were in the category of Rs.8001-10000 income range, 12 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs. below 6000 income range ,8 beneficiaries were in the category of income range of Rs.6001 to 8000, 3beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.10001-15000 in come range and only 2 beneficiaries were in the income range Rs. above15000.

In respect of Scheduled Tribes 15 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs. below 6000 income range, 10 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.6001to 8000 and 5 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.8001-10000. And only 10 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs. 10001-15000 income range.

In respect of Backward Castes, 5 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.below 6000, 14 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.6001to 8000.

11 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.8001 to 10000, 6 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.10001 to 15000. And only 4 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs. 15000 above.

In respect of Other Castes. 8 beneficiaries were in the category of income group Rs.below 6000, 12 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.6001 to 8000, 15 beneficiaries were in the category of Rs.8001 to 10000 and only 2 beneficiaries were in the category of above Rs.10000 to 15000 and only 3 beneficiaries were in the category of income range Rs.15000 above.

The level of employment after the implementation of DWCRA programme reveals that out of the 160 beneficiaries 38.12 per cent of them had employment of 101 to 180 mandays and 21.25 per cent of them had employment of 0 to 100 mandays, 23.75 per cent of them, had employment of 181 to 240 mandays and 16.87 per cent of them had employment of above 241 mandays. Among the Scheduled Castes, 25.0 per cent of them had employment of 101 to 180 mandays, 20.0 per cent of them had employment of 0 to 100 mandays as well as 35.7 per cent of them had employment of 181 to 240 mandays. And 17.5 per cent of them are above 241 mandays. In respect of Scheduled Tribes, 47.5 percent of them had employment of 101 to 180 mandays, 20.0 per cent of them had employment of 0 to 100 mandays, and 15.0 percent of them had employment of 181 to 240 mandays. And 17.5 per cent of them are above 241 mandays.

In case of Backward Castes, 40.00 per cent of them had employment of 101 to 181 mandays, 22.5 per cent of them had employment of 0 to 100 mandays, 17.5 per cent of them had employment of 181 to 240 mandays and 20 per cent are above 241 mandays. In respect of Other Castes, 40 per cent of them had employment of 101 to 180 mandays, 22.5 per cent of them had employment 0 to 100 mandays. 25 per cent

of them had employment of 181 to 240 mandays and 12.5 per cent of them had above 241 mandays.

The basic reasons for meager income and less employment generation through the implementation of DWCRA programme in the mandal, in case of Scheduled Castes as revealed by them clearly shows that 25.0 per cent beneficiaries could not generate additional income and employment due to lack of storage facilities. In respect of Scheduled Tribes, activity of savaralu making and leaf plate making was launched, the reason for meagre income and less employment as stated by them reveals that 23.53 percent had low rate of sales, 35.29 percent could not generate sufficient income and employment as they diverted the assistance to clear off old debts.

In respect of Backward Castes, the activities of Business, petty shop was launched the reasons for meager income and less employment generation by them shows that 33.33 percent have utilized the assistance to clear off the old debts. 33.33 percent of beneficiaries could not improve their income because of low rate sales and 26.66 percent have utilized the assistance for providing storage facilities. In case of Other Castes, Sheep rearing and Milch Animals activity was launched the reason for meagre income and less employment as revealed by them shows that 16.66 per cent of the beneficiaries could not generate more income and employment due to clear old debts.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Since many women beneficiaries admitted to there being that they were forced to sell away their goods due to the lack of storage facilities. Hence the government should provide storage facilities to the rural women to store the goods.
2. Since many women beneficiaries admitted to their being that they under heavy debts, they were forced to sell away the assets to clear off the debts. Hence, at the time of sanctioning the assistance, the officials have to verify whether women beneficiaries have cleared off their debts.
3. It is evident from the analysis that more number of the other castes beneficiaries could not generate adequate income because of to clear old debts. Hence the government should provide lone facilities at reasonable interacts or subsidy.
4. Many women beneficiaries have expressed that the rate of sales are very low because of the distance between the residence of the villages and these business shops. The government should therefore, establish centralized markets for the sale of goods produced by these rural women in their own villages.
5. After sanctioning the assistance to the women groups, the officials have to monitor and guide the beneficiaries for effective implementation of the schemes.
6. Forward and backward linkages are to be considered while sanctioning the assistance.