4.1.0. Overview

This section intends to give a detailed account of the women empowerment measures through Education initiated by the government of Puducherry over the period of five-year time – 2005 to 2010 and to give some positive suggestions to the government for the positive possible corrective measures to be initiated for an effective implementation of the measures. For the qualitative analysis of various measures initiated by Puducherry government for the women empowerment, the investigator collected data from the following sources;

- Department of Education,
- Welfare Department,
- Department of statistics
- SC / ST Welfare Department.
- PIPMATE (Pondicherry Institute of Post-Metric education)

After collecting the required data from the above mentioned sources, the investigator made an analysis of the women empowerment programmes under the following headings.
1. Integrated Child Development
2. Government Financial Schemes
3. Empowerment through Higher Education
4. Empowerment through School Education

4.2.0 Testing the Hypothesis No. 1

The educational empowerment measures for women initiated by the Puducherry government during the period 2005 to 2010 are moving towards positive direction.

The following section is interested in testing the hypothesis mentioned above with empirical evidences. The section has divided into four parts; The first part concentrates on the women empowerment measures taken for the children of poor educated women. The second section concentrates on the Governmental schemes available for the educated poor women in the forms of financial assistance to their children, and other assistance from Women Commission. The third section focuses on the empowerment initiatives implemented by Puducherry Government for College going Girls. The fourth section discusses on the empowerment initiatives by Puducherry Government for School going girl children and final part gives an overall analysis.
4.3.0. Women Empowerment Measures to the Children of Poor Educated Women

This part of this chapter has systematically made an attempt to evaluate the various programs and schemes initiated by Puducherry government for empowering the girl children through Anganwadis, Integrated Child Development Service Schemes (ICDSS), and benefits rendered to the children of poor women based on their educational qualifications.

4.3.1. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):

ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme and the major objectives of this scheme are (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years, (ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of children, (iii) to reduce the rate of mortality, malnutrition and school dropouts and (iv) to bring about effective co-ordination in the works of various agencies involved in Child Welfare Programmes. There are 5 ICDS projects in the U.T of Puducherry viz., Villianur (141 AWC), Karaikal (141 AWC), Ariankuppam (122 AWC), Muthialpet (126 AWC), Sithankudi (158 AWC), Mahe (12) & Yanam (8) comprising of 688 Anganwadi Centres. Nearly, 25,000 children (0-6 years) are being covered through ICDS services. Pre-school beneficiaries covered during 2009-10 are 3530.
4.3.1.1. Anganwadi

According to Bhookh.com, a Mumbai based NGO hunger remains the number one cause for the death of the poor in the world. India’s serious problem is also empty stomach because one third of the world’s hungry live in India. Five Indians die every minute from hunger in India and 2.5 million Indians die every year from hunger. In this context, the government of India has initiated projects to address the need of the children and the needy through Anganwadis. Anganwadi is a government sponsored child-care and mother-care center in India. It caters to the children in the 0-6 age group. The meaning of the word ‘Anganwadi’ is “courtyard shelter” in Hindi. The program was initiated by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Service program to combat child hunger and malnutrition. The Anganwadi system is mainly managed by the Anganwadi worker. She is a health worker chosen from the community and given four months training in health, nutrition and child-care. She is in charge of an Anganwadi which covers a population of 1000. Around 20 to 25 Anganwadi workers are supervised by a Supervisor called Mukhyasevika and four Mukhyasevikas are headed by a Child Development Officer. In India there are an estimated 1.053 million Anganwadi centers employing 1.8 million mostly female workers and helpers.

124 www.bhookh.com/faq.php-Chched-similar
across the country. They provide outreach services to poor families in need of immunization, healthy food, clean water, clean toilets and learning environment for infants, toddlers and pre-school children. They also provide similar services for expectant and nursing mothers. According to the government figure, Anganwadis reach about 58.1 million children and 10.23 million pregnant or lactating women. Therefore, in India it is considered as the primary tool against the scourges of child malnourishment, infant mortality and curbing preventable diseases such as polio. While infant mortality has declined in recent years, India has the world’s largest population of malnourished or under-nourished children. It is estimated that about 47% of children aged 0-3 are under-nourished as per international standards. Here, again the main victim is the female child.

Children from below poverty line families especially those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes are considered the most at-risk. The objective is to address the genuine needs of the downtrodden. However, there are so many problems in implementing the program. The main problem is the unenthusiastic attitude of the workers who are working for minimum wages. In 2008-09 the Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram had increased the salary of the Anganwadi workers to Rs.1, 500/- and helpers to Rs. 750/- per month. In the 2011-2012 budgets the Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee increased the salary for Anganwadi workers to Rs. 3000/- per month and helpers to Rs.
1,500/- per month. However, the employees are not happy with the salary hike and demanding regularization with the salary of minimum Rs. 8000/- p.m. Less salary and insecurity of the job are creating a lot of indifference. As per the instructions of the Government of India, the Department of Women and Child Development, Puducherry was formed on 16th August 1996 after bifurcation from the Social Welfare Department, Pondicherry with a view to focus more attention exclusively for the upliftment of Women and Children. The Department deals with the provision of Nutrition/Health support to the children, pregnant and lactating mothers through the ICDS Projects.

4.3.1.2. Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP)

SNP is meant for the children and expectant and nursing mothers under ICDS Scheme. The scheme makes provision for the cost of food and other materials for the children up to 6 years of age of ICDS projects and for pregnant and lactating mothers. They receive a package of services through the Anganwadi centers. A total number of 25,781 children in the age group of 0-6 were benefitted under the programme during 2009-10. Apart from the above, the department implements other schemes also. The beneficiaries are 2703

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\[125\] Times of India 27\textsuperscript{th} February 2011
under Aravanaippu, 4429 under Kulavilaku, 211 under One girl child and 482 under two girl children during 2009-10.

**Table No.4.1**

**Number of Children Beneficiaries Benefitted By Other Schemes Implemented By Women and Child Welfare Department**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Aravanaippu</th>
<th>Kulavilaku</th>
<th>One child</th>
<th>girl</th>
<th>Two Girl Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008-09*</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>2,125</td>
<td>145</td>
<td></td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>22,190</td>
<td>3,591</td>
<td>1,723</td>
<td>1,807</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>2,703</td>
<td>4,429</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>482</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The scheme was introduced only from 2008-2009

**4.4.0 Government Financial Schemes**

There are various schemes implemented by the Department of Women and Child Welfare which give financial assistance to poor children. The following table (Table No.4.2) clearly shows the various schemes.
Table 4.2.

Educational Allowances to the Children Under
Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDSS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name of the scheme</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Educational Allowances to the Children of Widows</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Reimbursement of Tuition Fees for the Typewriting Shorthand for the Children of Widows</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Grant of Financial Assistance to the Poor Parents Having only One Girl Child who is Studying 8th to 10th Standard</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Women and Child Development, Puducherry

**4.4.1. Educational Allowances to the Children of Widows**

This scheme intends to help the children of widows to complete their school education without much financial hurdles. Already the government is providing free text books and notebooks, uniform and one bicycle to all the students of high school. This scheme is also meant for helping the students to purchase their text books, note books etc. The amount of Assistance is Rs. 25/-
to 120/- per year depending on which standard the student is studying. According to the guidelines, the annual income of the widow shall not exceed Rs. 24,000/- and the student should obtain not less than 50% marks in every class. However, the scheme is not in implementation because of financial difficulties. (For details see Table No. 4.1). The table also gives details about the number of beneficiaries under various schemes during the period 2005-2010.

4.4.3. Reimbursement of Tuition Fees To the Children of Widows in Typewriting and Shorthand

The main objective of the scheme is to help the children of widows to give some technical education at free of cost so that they can find a job to earn their livelihood. The scheme needs to be updated and improved according to the changing needs of the society. At present the government is giving an amount of Rs. 50/- per month for six months for typing Lower grade and ten months for Type Writing Higher and shorthand. On par with other schemes, these beneficiaries also should have the limited annual family income of Rs.24,000/- and produce the other necessary certificates like residence certificate from the Revenue Department and study certificate from the Institute of study. The government will reimburse the amount to the candidate after producing all the certificates. Though the intention of the scheme is appreciable,
realizing the changing educational and technical developments, the government can restructure the whole program by offering scholarship and educational facilities to the children of the widows and also computer and technical knowledge by providing computer education. The needs of other uneducated or semi educated candidates also can be addressed by creating various self employment opportunities. The government can formulate policies with long term vision. Moreover, even the present scheme can be simplified and be student friendly. The Government can collect information and issue some smart cards for all the widows and allow their children to avail all the benefits directly without going for all the formalities like getting income and nativity and other study certificates.

We are living in the era of e-governance and information technology and our young generations are fast and swift in all walks of life. Time is very precious for everybody in the era of globalization. Therefore, this scheme may be modified according to the changing scenario. For real empowerment of widows the modified benefits should reach both the widows and the children of widows.

Apart from the above mentioned schemes, through Pondicherry Corporation for development of Women and Handicapped Persons Ltd. (PCDW
The government is implementing a lot of women empowerment measures. PCDW & HP was established on 11-11-1993 to promote entrepreneurship among Women and Handicapped Person for their upliftment in the society. To achieve this object Trainings and Loans are provided. Apart from this, the Corporation is extending service to women by providing Hostel Accommodation for Working Women and Day care Centre for safe stay of Children of Working Women. Through this Corporation training is provided with a stipend of Rs. 150/- to the educated unemployed women and Handicapped Persons. The training is given in the fields of Computer, Typewriting, Tailoring & Embroidery, Terracotta and Paper Making, Toys making, Sea Shell Articles making, Palm Leaf Articles making, Fishnet Weaving, Silk Weaving, Nylon Mat Weaving etc.

**4.4.4. Grant of Financial Assistance to the Poor Parents Having Only One Girl Child who is Studying 8th To 10th Standard**

There are two important objectives behind the scheme. One is to promote and popularize the principle of small family norms and the second objective is to promote the welfare of the girl children by sharing the burden of the parents at the time of marriage of the girl child so that the parents consider the girls as an asset. The prerequisites to receive the benefits are the following: the annual
income of the parents shall not exceed Rs. 24,000/-; The parents/guardian of the bride should be a citizen of India and a native of the Union Territory of Puducherry by birth or by continuous residence of five years or more; the assistance shall be performed in accordance with the law in force on the date of marriage; the assistance is given for the performance of marriage of one daughter only; bride shall have been attained the age of 18 years and the bridegroom 21 years on the date of marriage. Like all the previous schemes all the necessary certificates – birth, residence, income, age proof, marriage registration and marriage invitation should be enclosed along with the invitation. If the above formalities are fulfilled the poor parents of the bride are eligible to get an amount of Rs. 15,000/- for the marriage expenses. Though this amount is released after the marriage, many poor people consider this as a blessing for arranging the marriage of their daughter. Table No. 4.2 depicts the real picture of the number of beneficiaries during the period of study

4.5.0. Hostel for Working Women

This scheme intends to provide inexpensive, secure and quality accommodation for women who are working away from their homes. Though Puducherry is a small region, geographically, the area is divided into Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam and each area is separated by more than hundred km. from
each other. Regional transfer of teachers and other government officials is a routine in the Union Territory. In this context, finding a cheap and safe accommodation for the women employees who are getting low salary is a difficult task. Moreover, unmarried ladies and family ladies whose life partners are working in other parts of the Union Territory find it very difficult to get cheap and secure accommodation. Understanding the difficulties of the low salaried women who are working away from their homes Puducherry government has started working women hostels in different parts of Puducherry. At present the facilities rendered by the government include a cot with mattress, lockable cupboards, television, New Papers, Magazines etc. For the accommodation they have to give Rs. 400/- per month. The cost of the food is divided among the inmates based on their consumption. The main condition to get accommodation in the government hostel is that the salary of the employee should not exceed Rs.4000/- p.m. At present there are five hostels functioning in different parts of Puducherry – one each in Lawspet, Saram, Puducherry town, Mudaliarpet and Karaikal. Apart from these hostels there are five hostels run by the Puducherry Corporation for Development of Women and Handicapped Persons Limited (PCFW & HP) one each in Sittankudi Main Road, Kosapalayam, Reddiyarpalayam, Travelers’ Bungalow, Karaikal and Mahe. These opportunities help the low income working women to find a safe
and less expensive accommodation. Table 4.2 explains the details about the beneficiaries of the schemes during the period 2005-2010.

4.6.0. Family Counseling Centre

Break down of families, harassment at home for dowry, domestic quarrel, ego between the couples, lack of experience in running the family, misunderstanding, trust deficit, managing the income and expenditure, fixing the priorities and cultural differences are some of the problems faced by most of the newly married couple. Consequently, many families are moving towards divorce and all forms of problems. Break down of the families cause a lot of damage in the life of the small kids. Solving the problems of the newly married couple at an early stage by giving timely counseling will help them a lot. Proper and timely counseling by senior and experienced people may solve the problems of many couples. Understanding the seriousness and importance of the problem, Pondicherry government has initiated Family Counseling Centers in different parts of Union territory under the Department of Women and Child Development. The primary work of the center is to enable the individual to know himself/herself and to solve his/her own problems through face-to-face relationship with the counselor. A Family Welfare committee will settle the cases which can not be settled by the Counselors. The Committee consists of a
Chairperson and six other members. Further, the center is providing Referral services like free legal aid, short stay home, vocational training etc. Police assistance will be provided to the clients.

Further, the Center is organizing Training Programs like “Behavioral Skill Management For Women” for creating health awareness, Legal Aid counseling, Self Employment Course on Beauty Clinic etc. for the empowerment of women. Apart from this awareness programs, the Center is organizing Orientation Programs.\textsuperscript{126} The main objectives are to provide knowledge related to change within family and about inter relatedness of family as a system with other systems. The second objective is to provide knowledge about various schemes and programs (socio-economic –legal) for restoration of human rights within the family. The third objective is to develop positive attitude towards changes in family structure and functions and the fourth is to develop positive attitude towards gender equity, egalitarian relationship and democratic relationship within families.\textsuperscript{127}

\textsuperscript{126} The Hindu 12, June, 2009
\textsuperscript{127} \url{www.indianpsychology.net/services.html}.
4.7.0. Other Legal Services for Women

Apart from the above mentioned welfare measures, the Union Territory has passed a few preventive measures and implemented the Union government’s Acts to safeguard the interests of the women. The important laws are Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 and modified rules of 1998, Immoral Traffic (Prevention Act), 1956, Domestic Violence Act of India (26-11-2006) and Sexual Harassment of women at working place. These acts protect the women from the harassment of their-in laws and husbands. Dowry cases and different forms of domestic violence against married women are regular phenomena in different parts of South India and these acts are the preventive mechanisms for the unarmed-weak women of India.

4.7.1. Role of Puducherry Women’s Commission in Empowering Women

The Puducherry Women’s Commission was constituted in the Union Territory of Puducherry with effect from 5th October 2004. This Commission was constituted to improve the status of women in the Union Territory of Puducherry and to enquire into unfair practices affecting women. The Commission is funded by this Department.

Puducherry Women's Commission aims to provide a permanent, effective voice for women in Puducherry. The Commission stands for fundamental
freedoms, basic human rights and the full enjoyment of life for all women throughout their lives. The purpose of the commission is to advance women towards full equality in all areas of life and to promote rights and opportunities for women. The Commission also believes that pro-active policies must be taken to protect women and children from human trafficking and domestic abuse. The Commission identifies areas of concern and recommends policy and legislation, provides feedback and acts as a liaison between the women of Puducherry and the Government. The Commission strives to promote and protect women's rights, and to support their efforts to ensure full exercise of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that will make possible equal participation by women and men in all aspects of society, so that women and men will share, fully and equally, both the benefits of development and responsibility for the future.

Regular Activities of the Commission:

- Receiving complaints and taking legal action
- Suicide control cell (0413-2205388)
- Marriage registration
- Tele-mediated career guidance
- Art of counseling for govt. School teachers
Powers of the Commission:

Puducherry Women’s Commission being a Quasi Judicial and Autonomous body used to serve a summon under section 14 (1) and 14 (1) (a) of the State Commission for Women for Act 2001 to the other side to make them appear before the Commission for enquiry.

Any proceeding before the Commission shall be deemed to be Judicial proceeding within the meaning of the section 193 and 228 of the Indian penal code. The Commission can enquire into any unfair practice, can inspect prisons, police stations, lock ups, sub jails, rescue homes or other places of custody where women are kept as prisoners, shelters for women, hostels intended for women or girls and to report Government for remedial action. Where the Commission views that any public servant is grossly indifferent to the discharge of duties in relation to the protection of interest of women can take initiative to take disciplinary action against the concerned. The Commission is also entitled to identify women's problem at different levels, to highlight it and to ask remedy from the Governments. As per Section 19, if the Commission is satisfied that a person has committed any criminal offence and that he should be prosecuted, it may pass an order to that effect and initiate prosecution of the person concerned. As per Section 26 no Court shall grant any
injunction restraining any proceeding which is being or about to be taken under the Provision of this Act.

As per the Act, the Commission may register voluntary Women's Organizations with the Commission to discharge functions of the Commission. As per Act, the Commission can submit reports on shortcomings in the laws in force which affect equality and fair treatment of women to the Government.

The Commission can give recommendation to Government to adopt and implement welfare measures to improve the conditions of women. The Commission can also formulate a comprehensive and affirmative scheme for securing equal opportunities to women. The Commission can maintain comprehensive data bank relating to Social, Economic and Political conditions of women. The Commission can also give recommendation to Government to initiate Legislation for removal of discrimination in the case of inheritance, guardianship, adoption or to safeguard the dignity of women and the honor of motherhood. The Commission can call for special studies or investigations in specific problems of discrimination and atrocities against women. The Commission can interfere in fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women. The Commission can undertake promotional and Educational
research to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres.

Activities of the Commission

The Commission strives in creating Women as change makers, builders of new ventures, achievers in learning and skills, daring and confident in accessing their basic rights. With this aim, the Commission team works to:

- Give priority for empowerment of Women
- Advocacy, research, publications and legal aid
- Economic empowerment, good governance and transformative leadership
- Networking with NGOs and other state Commission for ensuring gender equality and empowerment of Women
- Interacting with media, social activists and academician to suggest the ways of ensuring due representation of Women in all spheres.
- State and local visits to evaluate the progress of development of Women in various states and especially in Puducherry.\(^{128}\)

4.8.0. Women Development in Puducherry

Puduvai Pengal Pagutharivu Iyyakkam (PPI) (Women Rationalistic Movement)

The main aim of the women group formation in the rural areas in Pondicherry is to uplift their socio, economic, cultural development and enrich the women empowerment.

The objectives of the women group formations are:

- To give awareness on gender discrimination, exploitation to fight against their imbalance situation.
- To impart the alternative education centers to aware about the social, economic, cultural developments and make the role models in the villages.
- To form the Self Help Groups and through these groups to develop the saving habits and impart the education on economic rights to lead their own employment opportunities.
- To strengthen the women movement to bring out the gender balance and concentrate on girl child education and eradicate child labour in our working places.
• The main activities and means to form SHG’s and women movement are:
• To meet the women members regularly and enroll them in the group and give identity card and develop their saving habits
• To conduct the women group meetings regularly according to the need and issues of the women members.
• To organize trainings, seminars, conferences and campaigns to bring them up and to capacitate in health and environment.
• To impart the alternative education centers in their places and give importance for heath awareness and girl child education.
• To organize meetings and collect the local savings and deposit in the banks and equip them for getting the bank loans for employment opportunities.

4.9.0 Empowerment through Higher Education

This section gives a detailed account of the number of Higher Educational Institutions available for girl students and other benefits for those girls who are pursuing higher education. Traditional Indian parents from most of the rural areas, because of their traditional mind set, find it difficult to send their girl children to higher educational institutions citing the possible security threat in different forms and they are very particular about arranging their
marriage at the earliest possible time. Understanding the cultural implication of the co-educational institutions, almost all the states in India started many educational institutions exclusively for girls. The purpose is to encourage the parents to send their girls to higher educational institutions without any fear of their security within the institutions. On line with the national agenda, Puducherry government also initiated a lot of measures for encouraging women education at all levels. In due course the parents started sending their children to the co-education institution also. This section also discusses about the special schemes available for College going girls in the forms of scholarships and other benefits.

4.9.1. Directorate of Higher and Technical Education

According to government sources, Puducherry is emerging as a center for Higher Education with about one hundred and thirty three Higher Learning Institutions (Below Degree level and above Degree level). Of which, ten Arts and Science Colleges, one PG Center, five Polytechnic Colleges, two Engineering Colleges, one Dental college, one Veterinary college, one Law college, one Paramedical college, one D.T.Ed Institute, one B.E.D college, one Catering institute and one Medical College are run by the Government and the Societies funded by the government. Apart from the above, there is one Central
University in the name of “Pondicherry University”. All the government Arts & Science Colleges, Professional Colleges, Engineering and Medical Colleges are affiliated to Pondicherry Central University. There are seven Government Arts & Science Colleges in the U.T. of Puducherry. They are Bharathidasan Government College for Women, Tagore Arts College, Kanchi Mamunivar Center for Post-Graduate Studies in Puducherry Region, Avvaiyar Government College for Women, Arignar Anna Government Arts College in Karaikal Region, Mahatma Gadhi Government Arts College in Mahe Region and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Government Arts College in Yanam Region and one Government Polytechnic viz. Mothilal Nehru Government Polytechnic located at Lawspet, Puducherry. For this dissertation the researcher has identified the institutions which are exclusively taking care of the Women in Puducherry. Almost all the other institutions including Private institutions are offering co-education. Moreover, the research is not concentrated on the Women Empowerment measures initiated by Pondicherry University. Further, the institutions located in the other regions of Puducherry are also not included for this study.
4.9.2. Bharathidasan Government College for Women

Bharathidasan Government College for Women, in the name of the great poet of this soil, was ushered into being in the beginning of the Academic Year 1968-1969. During the span of these 40 years the college has witnessed a phenomenal growth both qualitatively and quantitatively. It caters to the needs of women students by offering a wide range of Arts, Science, and Commerce courses (i.e.) 16 Under-Graduate, two Post-Graduate and one M.Phil. Programme.

The excellent performance of the students both in the curricular and extra-curricular activities has facilitated the institution to get the autonomous status in the academic year 2004-2005. This college is the first autonomous institution in the Union Territory of Puducherry affiliated to the Pondicherry University.

With focus on the Knowledge-based economy, pioneering efforts are being undertaken to exhibit the talents of the students. Every year more than 200 students of this institution get themselves placed in suitable jobs through the Placement Cell.

Bharathidasan Government College for Women with its autonomous
status will bloom as an epicenter in promoting quality standards and shaping a Knowledge-driven economy.

The College is conferred with B++ Status from the academic year 2004-2005. From 1968 to 1985 it was affiliated to the University of Madras and since 1986 it has been affiliated to the Pondicherry University.

Courses Offered


The Post Graduate courses are M.Sc. Food Service Management and Dietetic, M.Com. Corporate Secretary ship and M.Sc. Food Service Management and Dietetic. Apart from these Post-Graduate Courses, the College is offering two M.Phil programs: M.Phil. Home Science an M.Phil. Corporate Secretary ship. It also offers two career Oriented Certificate Courses like Mass Communication and Journalism and Public Health and Nutrition and Advanced Diploma course in Computer Application.
Bharathidasan Government College for Women is the largest College in Puducherry offering the maximum number of courses. However, the infrastructure facilities at present are inadequate. According to the College sources for more than three thousand students there are only twenty seven toilets available. The successive Principals have brought to the notice of the government the need for strengthening the infrastructure facilities of the College but it was not fruitful. Moreover, the College can start course like Public Administration, Political Science, Management and Social Work which are necessary for the girl students to appear for competitive examination and to enter jobs.

4.10.0. Pondicherry Society for Higher Education and Women Empowerment

With the help of the government of Pondicherry two Societies namely Union Territory of Pondicherry Colleges of Education Society (UTPCES) and The Union Territory of Pondicherry Arts, Science and Technology Colleges Society (UTPASTCS) were formed in the years 2000 and 2001 respectively. The former society was formed to impart Teaching in Education Technology to the youth of Pondicherry Union Territory and the latter for teaching Arts and Science courses. In view of the similar administrative and financial functioning of these Societies the government has amalgamated these Societies
into one and named it as “PONDICHERY SOCIETY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION” which was registered on 15.3.2007 with registration No.397 of 2007 under Societies Act and functioning under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government (Education). The Director of Higher & Technical Education is the Member Secretary of the Society with the following objectives:

- To start and Administer Colleges to impart teaching in Arts, Science and Technology and Teacher Education.
- To impart Education in Diploma, Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Research Courses in different subjects so as to administer a high standard of Education.
- To provide all types of in-service programmes for Teachers and Students and to provide a Forum and Research and Training in all fields of Higher Education.

At present there are five colleges functioning under the Society:

1. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College of Education, Karaikal (PKCE)
2. Indira Gandhi College of Arts & Science, Kathirkamam, Puducherry (PKAC)
3. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Arts College, K.T. Kuppam, Puducherry (PKAC)
4. Rajiv Gandhi Arts & Science College, Thavalakuppam, Puducherry (RGASC)
5. Kasthuriba College for Women, Villianur, Puducherry.
It has been observed from primary sources that the first four colleges are admitting students from both sex without any disparity and also functioning with necessary infrastructure facilities. The Society, with the help of Puducherry Government is taking regular efforts to appoint the necessary faculty.

4.10.1. Kasthuribai College of Women:

Empowerment of rural girl children by providing them higher education opportunity by starting College for women is the real motive behind starting this college in one of the rural and underdeveloped areas of Puducherry. Villinour is located ten kilometers from the main town and in most of the areas the people are poor and not educationally developed on par with the town area. As mentioned before, the rural parents being afraid of the security of their girl children do not send them for higher education to the colleges which are located in the town. Understanding the reality, the Government took the innovative initiative of starting an Arts and Science College in Villianur.

However, the functioning and development of Kasthuriba College of Women, Villianour is unsatisfactory. The College was started with the vision of empowering women in rural areas by creating the opportunity to the rural women to get higher education. The college was started during the academic
year 2005-2006, exclusively for catering to the need of the rural women. The College was started in the premises of the Kannagi Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Villianor. It was started with only two courses i.e B.A. Social Work and B.A. History with the total intake of twenty eight students for each course for the academic year. The Government has appointed a Principal, two Assistant Professors in English, Two in Tamil, four in History, three in Social Work and one in Psychology. With the total strength of thirteen faculties and a total intake of one hundred and eleven girl students the college is functioning in the same premises for the past five years. It is necessary for the government to start more job oriented courses like B.Sc Computer Science, B.Com, B.B.A, Physical Education courses, and other courses like Development Administration, Public Administration, tourism, catering technology and other diploma courses. Further, the government can take initiatives to provide a separate building in a separate locality for the Women’s College in Villianour. These positive measures will help the rural educated women to attend the College choosing different courses according to their choice. Institutions without proper infrastructure facilities for a long period will automatically spoil the image of the institution and will discourage the parents to send their girls to the college. Moreover, proper free transport facility
for the girls may be arranged for the rural girl children who are residing in different parts of villages.

It is necessary for the Puducherry Educational Department to take some positive initiatives for providing all the necessary facilities to the Kasthuriba College for Women. The Government may take the following steps to attract more number of girl students from rural areas. First, separate and sufficient land for the Women’s College may be identified and procured. Secondly new courses may be designed and started for future academic year and the infrastructure facilities can be planned according to the future needs. Thirdly, transport facilities may be provided for all college going students from rural areas. Finally, to encourage the rural poor girl students to take courses in rurally located Colleges, the government can think about introducing some incentive measures for the rural girl children in the form of education without any fee and also some scholarship for the students who are from poor families and SC and BC communities. Above all, the Education Department can start many job oriented relevant courses with all the necessary infrastructure facilities with adequate faculty. The reality shows that in all these aspects Puducherry Government has to concentrate more to provide better service to women who are from rural areas for Higher Education.
4.11.0. Pondicherry Institute of Post-Matric Education (PIPMATE)

To promote Post-Matric Technical Education, the Government has established “Pondicherry Institute Of Post Matric Technical Education Society (PIPMATE) which runs four Polytechnic Colleges as follows:

1. Women’s Polytechnic College, Puducherry
2. Karaikal Polytechnic College, Karaikal
3. Indira Gandhi Polytechnic College, Mahe
4. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Polytechnic College, Yanam

4.11.1. Women’s Polytechnic College

One of the aspects of Women Empowerment is providing technical education to women with a reasonable fee structure but with all the necessary facilities. Keeping this vision in mind Puducherry Government has started this college and the college is offering a few interesting job oriented technical courses. The College is offering full time courses for three years in the following subjects:

1. Electrical and Electronic Engineering

The total intake for this subject is forty and out of the total seats five seats are reserved for physically disabled candidates. And the College is equipped with necessary faculties and Lab facilities and other infrastructure facilities.
2. Electronics and communication Engineering

The total intake for this course is fifty five and five seats are reserved for physically disabled candidates. As per the records the Department possesses all the necessary infrastructure facilities and required faculty and Labs.

3. Computer Engineering

This course is also a very useful one for girl students. There are fifty five seats for this course and out of that five seats are reserved for physically disabled candidates. This Department is also functioning with sufficient computers and qualified faculty.

4. Architectural Assistantship

For this course the total intake is thirty five and five seats are reserved for Physically disabled candidates. According to the College records the necessary infrastructure is available including qualified faculty.

5. Modern Office Practice

The total number of intake is thirty five and five seats are reserved for physically disabled persons. The Colleges is having all the necessary facilities with adequate faculty and non-teaching staff to run the program successfully.
The total allocation of seats in the Women Polytechnic College is one hundred and ninety during every academic year for all the five courses. The College is following reservation policy under various categories as per G.O. Ms No. 23 dated 8th March 2001, G.O.Ms.No.2, dated 26th May 2993, G.O.Ms. No 75, dated 2nd June 2003, G.O. M.s.No. 29, dated 11th March 2005 and G.O.Ms.No.126, dated 19th October 2005 of Chief Secretariat (Education), Government of Pondicherry. As per the government norms the reservation at present is as follows: 16% of Scheduled Caste (SC), 20 % for Most Backward Class (OBC) and 13 % for Other Backward Class (OBC). The remaining 51% seats will be open for all candidates. Apart from this there is Horizontal Reservation under different categories: for physically challenged 3%, Wards of Ex-Servicemen 3%, Wards of Freedom Fighters 4% and 1% for Meritorious Sports persons.

The College is collecting a minimum fee of Rs. 1500/- under different categories and there are transport facilities for the students who are coming from distance places with a charge of Rs 100/- per academic year. Apart from the above mentioned courses, the women’s Polytechnic is offering Lateral Admission in the second year under Vocational Stream (16 Seats) and Academic Stream (16 seats) in Engineering/Technology Courses and Modern

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129 Pondicherry Institute of Post-Matric Technical Education, Information Brochure 2011)
Office Practices under Vocational Stream (3 seats) and Academic Stream (3 seats).

The unique aspect of the Women Polytechnic College in Puducherry is that the College encourages the Women to join the National cadet Corps (NCC) in both the army and Naval wing. Further, the College is functioning with a National Service Scheme (NSS) unit consisting of fifty students. Eligible candidates will be enrolled in the NSS at the beginning of every academic year. According to the College regulations all the physically fit candidates should give an undertaking to join either the NCC or NSS wing of the College.\textsuperscript{130} Joining the NCC and NSS, impart a lot of self-confidence and self-assertiveness, team spirit, art of adjustment, discipline, and patriotism and above all a lot of inner strength to the young women.

The five main courses offered by the Women’s Polytechnic College, the Lateral admission under Vocational Stream and Academic Stream in the second year, transport facilities at cheap rate, reasonable fee structure, sufficient Faculty with infrastructure facilities and opportunities for women to join the NCC, Naval Wing and NSS Schemes are really appreciable. However, the College administration and the Education Department are not taking any initiative for starting new programs like Civil Engineering, Instrumentation and

\textsuperscript{130} Ibid.
Control Engineering, Information Technology and Mechanical Engineering which are also necessary for girl children in the era of gender equality. The present government can take necessary steps to start the above mentioned courses at the earliest possible time by providing the necessary infrastructure facilities and Faculty. Such initiatives will definitely help the women to be empowered in the era of competitions and opportunities.

4.12.0. *Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme:*

Encouraging the students to pursue Higher education is one of the empowerment measures. In Puducherry there are no special measures for girl students who are pursuing Higher Education in the Arts and Science Women’s Colleges and Polytechnics as discussed above. Though Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Financial Assistance Scheme is not addressing the girls alone, it is indirectly helping and encouraging so many girl children with meritorious marks to join in Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges and other professional colleges. At present, apart from the Central University there are seventeen Arts and Science Colleges in Puducherry and out of the seventeen, six Colleges are run by Private Managements. There is one Government Law College, one government B.Ed College and twenty six Private Colleges, one Fine Arts College and one Community College. Apart from the above, six Polytechnic Colleges (one
Private), forty two Teacher Training Colleges (only two Government Colleges) and two Catering /Hospitality Colleges (one Government and one Private) are functioning. However, the students join in any one of the above mentioned Colleges.

Under the Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Financial Assistance Scheme, it was originally intended to provide 100% reimbursement of tuition fee to all the eligible students, irrespective of income and class, admitted in Private un-aided professional Colleges sponsored through CENTAC (Centralized Admission Committee) with the motive that Professional education reaches the common man. The students who joined through CENTAC in all the Professional colleges received full financial assistance during the academic years 2005 to 2008. However, the change of Chief Minister and the so called financial crunch compelled the government to revise the scheme. According to the revised scheme, in order to reduce the financial burden and to make the scheme as “merit & means” based, the then government decided the following: According to the new decision, from 2009-10 onwards, the implementation of the scheme shall be revised as follows: The total number of Medical students selected through CENTAC in different colleges who are eligible for financial assistance is 250. Among the 250 students those belonging to BPL (Below Poverty Line) families with the Annual income below Rs. 50,000/- are eligible to receive the
full fee payment subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,75,000/- p.a. per student. For all other students full fee payment is subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,00,000/- p.a. per student. The table No 4.3 depicts the details about the scholarship recipients every year under each course.

As per the Engineering courses are concerned, all the students selected through CENTAC in the Government Colleges are eligible for reimbursement of full prescribed fee irrespective of income. However, for the seven hundred students selected though CENTAC in other Private Colleges the concession is different. Those students who belong to BPL families with annual income below Rs. 50,000/- are getting the full fee payment subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- p.a. per student. For all the other students full payment is subject to a maximum of the prescribed annual fees in a Government College. Apart from the above the students pursuing the B.Ed., degree course, D.T.Ed., and M.B.A. are also getting scholarship under the scheme.
Table 4:3
Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme
(Details of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Students covered course –wise under the scheme</th>
<th>Amount spent (Rs. In Lakhs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>BDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3510</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme is an innovative scheme initiated by Mr. Rangasamy as chief Minister with the purpose of providing free professional education to all the students selected through CENTAC for different professional courses. However, the change of guard because of the changing political scenario created some uncertainties about the scheme. Now after the recent election the newly elected Chief Minister Mr. Rangasamy has promised to revise the fee payment of total fee to all the selected students.
4.13.0. Scholarship for Ph.D Scholars

This scholarship is given to those students who are interested in pursuing their Ph.D program in any one of the regional languages – Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and French. They have to pursue their research program in any one of the research institutions in Puducherry. The total number of scholarships available for each language is two and total number of scholarships for every year is eight. As depicted in table 4:4 the selected candidates are eligible to get Rs. 5,000/- per month for three years with a annual contingency of Rs.10,000/-

Table 4. 4

Scholarship for Ph.D Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Tamil</th>
<th>Telugu</th>
<th>Malayalam</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of Students</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship (Per month)</td>
<td>Rs 5,000</td>
<td>Rs 5,000</td>
<td>Rs 5,000</td>
<td>Rs 5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency (Per year)</td>
<td>Rs 10,000</td>
<td>Rs 10,000</td>
<td>Rs 10,000</td>
<td>Rs 10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.14.0. Empowering Young Women through School Education

The rural Indian society is well known for its traditional mind set in dealing with women empowerment. As discussed in the first chapter, even during the 21st century, women in India are not able to attain equal status on par with men in many areas of life especially in rural areas. In this context, it has been realized that the best means to uplift the status of rural and urban poor women in India is empowering them with proper education. However, the mindset of the rural parents with regard to the education of girl children is highly opinionated. Most of them are not ready to send their children for education after 8th standard being afraid of their security and they want to arrange them early marriage. Moreover, they do not want to invest their scarcely available resources for girls’ education for they will not get any return in the short run or long run. Realizing this, the policy makers encourage all the Educational Departments to start schools for girls alone. Apart from the governmental initiatives so many private organizations like, Missionary movements from many Western countries started many girls’ schools addressing the need of the girls.¹³¹

¹³¹ For instance in Puducherry a Missionary from France, Louis, came to Puducherry and got the vision of starting schools for only girls in Puducherry. The Immaculate School groups are at present running four girls’ schools in and around Puducherry apart from one B.Ed college, one DTD college and one Arts and Science College. The purpose is to provide the best and cheap education to the poor girls. Similarly with the help of the
4.14.1. Schools for Girls

To provide education for girls, all the successive Puducherry governments are taking a lot of initiatives. At present there are nine Government Girls’ Higher Secondary Schools functioning in Puducherry alone. They are Thiruvalluvar Higher Secondary School for Girls, Vallalar Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Subramania Bharathi Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Suseela Bai Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Sinnatha Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Manimekalai Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Kannagi Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School in Kalapet, and Kasthuriba Gandhi Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School. These schools are providing free education to the girls who belong to all communities. Moreover, the government has provided bicycle to all the IX standard students, both boys and girls during the academic year 2007-08. Further, the government is helping the students with two sets of free uniforms and all the necessary books for their education. The midday meal is another important motivating factor which is attracting more and more poor students.
students towards schools and enabling them to attend school regularly without taking any leave.

As mentioned earlier, some of the rural parents are not ready to send their girl children to the school after they have completed their High School education. The main reasons are insecurity for their virginity, physical insecurity, future financial commitment, lack of proper guidance and no guarantee for their future in getting a job to earn their livelihood. Another reason for the rural uneducated parents not sending their girls to Higher Secondary School is the non-availability of Higher Secondary Schools for girls in rural areas for most of the rural Higher Secondary Schools are offering co-education. Understanding the seriousness of imparting quality education to the rural girls who are really interested in pursuing Higher Secondary education, Puducherry government took an innovative initiative. According to the government’s plan, the following three schools, N.K.C Government Higher Secondary School, Kurusukuppam, Thanthai Periyar Government Higher Secondary School, Ariyankuppam and Government Higher secondary School, Sultanpet do not offer co-education at the Higher Secondary level. Though all these schools are offering co-education program up to X standard, the government admits only the girl students at the Higher Secondary level. This innovative measure is motivating the parents to send their girl children to the
schools without any fear. It is necessary to mention that all the government schools are having sufficient infrastructure facilities and adequate qualified teachers. However, the maintenance of the building, flooring, furniture facilities and cleanliness in the school premises including the compound walls in the rural areas are yet to be improved.

4.15.0. Scholarship and other Financial Assistance to the School Children

Pondicherry Government has introduced so many scholarship schemes to all the poor students to encourage them to continue their education without any disruption. Some scholarships are available to poor boys and girls and a few are provided only to girls. The scholarships available for both the boys and girls also need some discussion because the girls are also getting benefits on par with boys. The common scholarship and the number of beneficiaries are the following:
### Table 4: 5

Scholarship and Other Financial Assistance to the School Children for the Period of 2005-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Incentive Award to +2 students</td>
<td>1578</td>
<td>1498</td>
<td>1108</td>
<td>1098</td>
<td>1177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Puducherry State Post Matric Scholarship</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pre-Matric Scholarship to Other Economically Backward Class</td>
<td>16205</td>
<td>16791</td>
<td>17530</td>
<td>16984</td>
<td>18438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Attendance scholarship to Girl Students</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Scheme of Scholarship to students belonging to the UTP selected and studying in the Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar, Coimbatore.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Incentives to all school students studying in Government schools from VI to XII standard in the UTP.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54495</td>
<td>53906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>17991</td>
<td>18510</td>
<td>18347</td>
<td>54495</td>
<td>73754</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.15.1. Incentive Award to +2 students

This scheme is intended to provide financial assistance to OEBC (Other Educationally Backward Class) students to complete their education up to
Secondary School level and to avoid drop out due to lack of financial assistance. Apart from providing free uniforms, books and bicycle this scheme also encourages the poor children from Other Educationally Backward class to continue their education up to Higher Secondary level. All the students studying +1 and +2 who are eligible to receive the scholarship are getting an amount of Rs. 1000/- annually. The eligibility criterion is the Children whose parents are getting the income of not more than Rs. 24,000/- per annum. This scheme is addressing the need of both the boys and the girls and the recipient list is encouraging. During 2005-06 the total number of recipients from Puducherry was 1578, during the academic year 2006-07 it was 1498, during 2007-08 it was 1108, during 2008-09 was 1098, during 2009-10 it was 1177. This scholarship scheme is encouraging the parents to send their children without any financial commitment. Especially this scheme is a real moral booster for girl students from poor families.

4.15.2. Puducherry State Post Matric Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to achieve inclusive empowerment. Matriculation schools are known for collecting more fees, since most of the private schools are fixing their own fee structure which is considered as a very

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132 2202 –General Education -03-University and Higher Education -03/scholarship 03/107 (02) Incentive Awards to students studying in +2 belonging to Poor and weaker section of the Society – 03/107 (02)(01) (34) Sc & Stipend –(PLAN) Directorate of School Education, Scholarship Section
heavy burden by many of the poor parents. Many poor parents who admit their children with a lot of enthusiasm find it very difficult to continue the education of their children. Understanding the financial burden of the poor parents Puducherry government introduced this scheme. It aims to provide financial assistance to OEBC students to complete their education from Secondary School Education to Higher secondary School education. Children, whose parents’ annual income is less than Rs. 25,000/- alone are eligible to get the assistance. According to the government documents during the academic year 2005-06 one hundred and six students received the scholarship; during the academic year 2006-07, 119 students; during 2007-08, 193 students; during 2008-09, 150 students; and during 2009-10 121 students received the scholarship.\textsuperscript{133}

As per the Post Matric Scholarship benefits are concerned +1 students are eligible to receive a monthly assistance of Rs.50/- for ten months and the +2 students are eligible to get an amount of Rs. 75/- per month for a period of ten months. Though the scholarship amount is very meager when compared to the fee structure of the Private schools it motivates some of the middle income parents to allow their children to continue their education in well equipped Private schools.

\textsuperscript{133} 2202-General Education 02 Secondary Education 02/107 Scholarship 02/107(3) Award of Scholarship under Higher Secondary Education, Directorate of Education, Scholarship Section
4.15.3. Pre-Matric Scholarship to Other Economically Backward Class

This scholarship is provided for those poor students (OEBC) who have joined in private Matriculation schools in Puducherry. The purpose of providing this scholarship is to help them to complete their education by getting some financial assistance every month as the Private Schools are collecting huge amount as tuition fees. According to the government guidelines, those children, whose parents belonging to an annual income group of Rs. 25000/- are eligible to receive the benefits. The students from VI to VIII standard are getting a monthly scholarship of Rs. 50/- per month for ten months during every academic year. The students of IX and X standard are eligible to get an amount of Rs.75/- every month for ten months in an academic year. According to the government documents the beneficiaries under the scheme for the academic year 2005-06 were 16205; 2006-07 were 16791; 2007-08 were 17530; 2008-09 were 16984; and 2009-10 were 18438.

Generally, the children belonging to the affluent families with higher income prefer to go to one of the Private schools for they consider them better than the Government schools, though the Private schools are collecting huge amount as tuition fees from the students. Admitting their children in a private

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134 2002-Welfare of SC & ST & OBC 01-Welfare of SC 01/277 Education 01/277 (1) Award of Pre Matric Scholarship to OEBC students. Directorate of Education, Scholarship Section

135 Dinamalar 7th June, 2009
school is very difficult for most of the families belonging to the poor income group. Keeping these things in mind, under this scheme the government has taken this initiative to provide some financial benefits to the children studying from VI standard to X standard. This assistance helps the poor students to get quality education of their choice.

4.15.4 Attendance scholarship to Girl Students

This scholarship was introduced and popularized by the Puducherry Government to raise the enrolment of Girls in the age group of 11-14 years in the Middle school education and to reduce the drop out among the girl students. As per the scholarship, selected students are eligible to get an annual scholarship amount of Rs. 200/-. Girl students, whose parents’ annual income is less than Rs. 24,000/- are eligible to get the benefits.\textsuperscript{136} As per the government documents during the academic years 2005-2010 every year four hundred girl students are receiving this scholarship.

Attendance scholarship to poor girl students introduced by Pondicherry government is an innovative and useful scheme addressing the girl students and women empowerment. The expectation is that the meager amount will encourage the students to continue their school education without any break. No doubt that this scheme is an innovative empowerment measure for young

\textsuperscript{136} 2002-01/109 scholarship & Stipend Incentive 01/109(1) Attendance scholarship to Girl Students, Directorate of School Education, Scholarship section
women. But if the government increases the amount from Rs. 200/- to at least Rs. 1,000/- it will create a positive opinion about the scholarship, since two hundred rupees for one academic year is a very meager amount. The new government can reconsider and revise the benefits of the scheme.

4.15.5. Scheme of Scholarship to students belonging to the UTP selected and studying in the Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar, Coimbatore.

Selected students are eligible to get an annual scholarship of Rs. 10,000/- per annum. The beneficiaries under this scheme year wise are as follows: two students during the academic year 2005-06; two students during the academic year 2006-07; seven students were selected for the academic year 2007-08; nine students were getting the benefits during the academic year 2008-09; twelve students were getting the benefits during the academic year 2009-10.137

4.15.6. Incentives to all school students studying in Government schools from VI to XII standard in the UTP.

This scholarship is intended for all the students without any disparity to complete their education up to Higher Secondary School level and to avoid the drop out of students from their school due to lack of financial assistance.138 The amount sanctioned for each selected candidate is Rs. 250/- per year. All the students who are doing their schooling in Government schools are eligible for

137 Directorate of School Education, Scholarship Section
138 2202-gen Education-02/109-Govt. Secondary Schools-02/109(14)- Incentive to all school students studying in Govt. Schools from 6th to 12th Standard, Directorate of School Education, Puducherry
the scholarship. This scheme was introduced during the academic year 2008-09. The number of recipients of the benefits during the first year (2008-09) was 54,495 and the next academic year (2009-2010) it was 53,906.

As per the government sources most of the drop outs are from the government schools and most of the drop outs are from the poor families in rural areas mainly because of their financial constraints. Understanding the reality, the government has introduced this new innovative scheme for both boys and girls to avoid drop outs from the schools.

4.16.0. N.C.C. Cadets of the Union Territory of Puducherry (UTP)

To recognize the talents displayed and achievements secured by the NCC Cadets and also to give adequate impetus to NCC movement in the Union Territory, the government has introduced this scholarship for both the boys and girls. Boys and Girls belonging to Senior Division up to Graduation and Junior Division up to XII standard are eligible to receive the scholarship. According to the government provision the senior cadets are getting Rs. 50/- per month for twelve months and the Junior Division boys and girls are getting Rs. 25/- per month for twelve months. This scholarship is available to all the students irrespective of their income and community. 139

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139 2204-102(5) Award of scholarship to Outstanding NCC cadets, Directorate of Distance Education, Scholarship Section
documents every year thirty four Senior and Junior Cadets from boys and girls are getting the benefits.

4.17.0. **Scholarship to the Cadets belonging to the UTP who are selected for admission and studying in Rastriya Indian Military College, Dahradun.**

This scholarship is available for those candidates from Puducherry Union territory who are selected for admission and studying in Rastriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. According to the official sources, the selected candidates are eligible to receive an amount of Rs.20, 000/- per annum.

4.18.0. **Scheme of Scholarship to students from Non-Hindi speaking states for Post-Matric studies in Hindi.**

One of the empowerment measures is creating opportunities for the young ones to learn more than one language. The knowledge of more than one language creates a lot of self confidence to the learner. Tamil Nadu and Puducherry people opposed imposition of Hindi language and subsequently all the schools abolished Hindi language from the school Curriculum. However, Puducherry Union territory which is known for more diversity than Tamil Nadu is slowly accepting the importance of Hindi and indirectly encouraging the students to learn Hindi. One way is accepting the centrally sponsored Central School and another is implementing the central government scheme of providing scholarship to the students who are studying Hindi in their schools. The scholarship is implemented among the non-Hindi speaking areas with
Central Assistance. Students who are studying in XI and XII standards are eligible to receive Rs. 300/- per month for a period of ten months.

Allowing the Centrally sponsored scheme of creating opportunity to the school going children to learn Hindi with financial assistance is one of the empowerment measures. Helping the children to learn one language with financial assistance is really a rewarding one.

4.19.0. National Scheme of Incentive to SC/ST Girl Students for Secondary Education.

This scheme also is a unique one targeting the Scheduled Caste students belonging to all income groups. In order to reduce the drop outs of the SC students and to create a positive environment among the girls belonging to the SC/ST communities in Secondary School, the government announced the one time financial assistance to all the girl students from SC/ST community. The students who are doing their +1 and +2 are eligible to receive the scholarship.
### Table 4:6.

#### SC/ST Non-Plan Students Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the Schemes</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vocational Training &amp; Aid</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Post Matric Scholarship to SC Students and lower income group Students</td>
<td>1601</td>
<td>2034</td>
<td>1339</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Post Matric Scholarship to SC Students</td>
<td>11224</td>
<td>8879</td>
<td>5422</td>
<td>3404</td>
<td>2405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stipend to SC students in ITI</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Award of Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Award of Adhoc Merit Grant (Special Incentive) to SC Students</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Retension Scholarship to SC Students in Primary Schools</td>
<td>8776</td>
<td>6957</td>
<td>5631</td>
<td>5257</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22033</strong></td>
<td><strong>18418</strong></td>
<td><strong>12945</strong></td>
<td><strong>9940</strong></td>
<td><strong>8740</strong></td>
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</table>

#### 4.20.0. Analysis

The overall analysis on Women empowerment measurers in Puducherry reveals that there are so many welfare schemes periodically announced by Pondicherry government based on the welfare state’s aim of taking care of the people from womb to tomb. The first Hypothesis has been systematically proved through the above mentioned discussion with empirical evidence. It has been said that announcing and advertising so many schemes is not a big thing in
a poor state like India. More than that implementation of every scheme in a successful manner to reach the needy on time is important. However, the findings and the factual evidences reveal that CENTAC financial assistance scheme and educational allowances to the children of widows are not systematically and regularly implemented in the name of paucity of funds and also because of bureaucratic formalities. To receive each benefit the applicant has to go through so many painstaking and time taking formalities in order to get the necessary certificates running from Revenue Department to hospital and to other officials. The benefits are meager, uncertain and irregular but the formalities are complicated for the uneducated poor people. Considering the above mentioned realities, the researcher would like to suggest the following recommendations to the government for future policy formulation and implementation.

4.21.0. Future Policy formulation and implementation

Firstly, the government can take some positive steps to distribute smart card to all the people compiling all the necessary information such as place of birth, Date of birth, religion, community, income, residential address and identification mark. Secondly, the formalities should be simplified for the applicants. Getting a certificate from the Revenue Department and other
officials is painstaking. Therefore, the government can appoint some part time employees in the Anganwadis to attend the needs of the poor and uneducated people. These employees can take necessary steps attending the works related to the poor people. To avoid middle men the government can engage some part time employees from the unemployed categories. It will give a lot of confidence for the poor people. Thirdly, the government can see to it that the finch benefits to the Old widows and Old aged helpless people are not denied in the name of paucity of funds. The researcher wants to suggests the government to implement all the poor oriented schemes with sincerity and commitment in order to win the heart of the oppressed and unarmed. Fourthly, the income ceiling can be raised from the present Rs. 24,000/- to Rs. 75,000/- for receiving the benefits. Fifthly, the government can take steps so that the benefits reach the people on time because there is a saying that delayed justice is denied justice.

As mentioned above, the concerned Aganvadis should authorize one or two unemployed women social workers to attend the works related to the poor people.

For successfully executing a consistent welfare program, Puducherry government can imitate some of the good models followed by other successful states in different parts of the world. We are living in the era of information explosion and information technology helps everyone to be aware
of the success and failure of various schemes initiated by different states. The state administrators should be ready to update them and adopt necessary changes based on the technological developments, simplifying the administrative formalities. At present the formalities are not in simple form for the poor and uneducated people to receive the benefits. It is the right time to go for a paradigm shift on the administrative formalities. The poor, weak and needy should get legal assurance from the government about the benefits they are eligible. Any welfare scheme should be people oriented, timely, regular, sufficient, problem solving and futuristic and above all simple.

Learning from each other is one of the advantages of globalization for the world is shrinking and the knowledge is widening day by day. Puducherry is a small place in size and population. The annual budget of the government is Rs. 2,500/- crores. With this huge amount the government can successfully implement all the announced welfare schemes in an uninterrupted manner. However, there is need for rational planning and implementation of planning. The government should learn some of the good experiences from the well developed countries like Sweden. The successful Swedish model welfare program can be adopted and implemented in Puducherry also. They are successfully implementing so many welfare schemes like: 1. Earning related pension schemes, 2. Premium Pension 3. Guarantee pension 4. Self-employed

Wilson, Dorothy, The Welfare State in Sweden. London: Heinemann, 1979, and BRIA 143 C The ‘Swedish Model” Welfare for Everyone”. The Swedish government has been successfully executing all the welfare programs in a meticulous manner for so many years. The main reasons are the availability of huge resources, limited number of population, awareness of the people, properly educated population, the positive role of the Church leaders, society

140 For further details see Sander, Gorden F. “Sweden After the Fall” The Wilson Quarterly, March 1, 1996: pp. 46-60
141 www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-actioon/bria-14-3-c.html-
oriented Educational Institutions and the committed NGOs. However, it is not possible to implement all the announced welfare schemes meticulously in Puducherry because of the paucity of funds, but they can learn a lot from the Swedish model of policy formulation and policy implementation.

It is necessary for the Puducherry Educational Department to take some initiative for providing all the necessary facilities to the Kasturiba College for Women. The Government can take the following steps to attract more number of girl students from rural areas. First, separate and sufficient land for the Women’s College may be identified and procured at the earliest possible time. Secondly, new courses may be designed and started for future academic year and the infrastructure facilities may be planned according to the future needs. Thirdly, transport facilities may be provided for all college going students from rural areas. Finally, to encourage the rural poor girl students to take courses in rurally located colleges, the government can introduce some incentive measures for the rural girl children in the form of education without any fee and also some scholarship for the students who are from poor families and SC and BC communities. Above all, the Education Department may start many job oriented relevant courses with all the necessary infrastructure facilities with adequate faculty. These measures may further strengthen the women in Puducherry.
The five main courses offered by the Women’s Polytechnic College, the Lateral admission under Vocational Stream and Academic Stream in the second year, transport facilities at cheap rate, reasonable fee structure, sufficient Faculty with infrastructure facilities and opportunities for women to join the NCC, Naval Wing and NSS Schemes are really appreciable. However, the College administration and the Education Department are not taking any initiative for starting new programs like Civil Engineering, Instrumentation and Control Engineering, Information Technology and Mechanical Engineering which are also necessary for girl children in the era of gender equality. The present government can take necessary steps to start the above mentioned courses at the earliest possible time by providing the necessary infrastructure facilities and Faculty. These types of initiatives will definitely help the women to empower a lot in the era of competitions and opportunities.

Bharthidhasan College for Women is attracting more number of women students than any other Arts and Science Colleges in Puducherry. The courses offered by the College are diversified and useful. However, it is necessary to start some more innovative and job oriented courses addressing the needs of women and the society. Moreover, the College with more than three thousand students needs better infrastructure facilities according to the changing scenario.
Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme is an innovative schemes initiated by Mr. Rangasamy as chief Minister with the purpose of providing free professional education to all the students selected through CENTAC. There was some setback in the implementation of the scheme because of paucity of funds. \(^{142}\) Now, Mr. Rangasamy has become the Chief Minister of Puducherry again with absolute majority and signed the first file for the continuation of the financial benefits to all the CENTAC students and has created new hope for all the CENTAC students. \(^{143}\) Though the financial assistance scheme is not for the girl students alone there are so many poor girl students entering Professional courses like, M.B.A., B.Ed., MBBS and Engineering.

Some of the rural parents are not ready to send their girl children to the school after they have completed their High School education. The main reasons are insecurity for their virginity, physical insecurity, future financial commitment, lack of proper guidance and no guarantee of their future in getting some job to earn their livelihood. Another reason for the rural uneducated parents for not sending their girls to Higher Secondary School is the non-availability of Higher Secondary Schools for girls in rural areas, for most of the

\(^{142}\) It is necessary to note that the previous government failed to issue the promised scholarship to any of the students selected through CENTAC for the academic years 2009-10 and 2010-11 in spite of repeated requests from the Parents Association (Dinnamalr, 7th November 2010)

\(^{143}\) Dinnamalar (Puducherry) 14, May 2011
rural Higher Secondary Schools are offering co-education. Understanding the seriousness of imparting quality education to the rural girls who are really interested in pursuing Higher Secondary education, Puducherry government took an innovative initiative. According to the governments’ plan, the following three schools, N.K.C Government Higher Secondary School, Kurusukuppam, Thanthai Periyar Government Higher Secondary School, Ariyankuppam and Government G Higher secondary School, Sultanpet do not offer co-education at the Higher Secondary level. Though all these schools are offering co-education program up to X standard, the government admits only the girl students at the Higher Secondary level. This innovative measure is motivating the parents to send their girl children to the schools without any fear.

As per the Post Matric Scholarship benefits are concerned +1 students are eligible to receive a monthly assistance of Rs.50/- for ten months and the +2 students are eligible to get an amount of Rs. 75/- per month for a period of ten months. Though the scholarship amount is very meager when compared to the fee structure of the Private schools it motivates some of the middle income parents to allow their children to continue their education in well equipped Private schools. Generally, the children belonging to the affluent families with higher income prefer to go to one of the Private schools for they consider them better than the Government schools, though the Private schools are collecting
huge amount as tuition fees from the students. 144 Admitting their children in a private school is very difficult for most of the families belonging to the poor income group. Keeping these things in mind, under this scheme the government has taken this initiative to provide some financial benefits to the children studying from IV standard to X standard. This assistance helps the poor students to get quality education of their choice.

Attendance scholarship to poor girl students introduced by Pondicherry government is an innovative and useful scheme addressing the girl students and women empowerment. The expectation is that the meager amount will encourage the students to continue their school education without any break. No doubt that this scheme is an innovative empowerment measure for young women. But it is necessary for the government to increase the amount from Rs. 200/- to at least Rs. 1,000/- to create a positive opinion about the scholarship. Two hundred rupees for one academic year is a very meager amount. The new government can reconsider and revise the benefits of the scheme.

As per the government sources most of the drop outs are from the government schools and poor families in rural areas mainly because of their financial constraints. Understanding the reality, the government has introduced

144 Dinnamalar 7th June, 2009
this new innovative scheme for both boys and girls to avoid drop outs from the schools. Allowing the Centrally sponsored scheme of creating opportunity to the school going children to learn Hindi with financial assistance is one of the empowerment measures. Helping the children to learn one language with financial assistance is really a rewarding one.

National scheme of Incentive to SC/ST Girl students for Secondary School is a great motivator for the poor rural girl children who belong to the oppressed community to complete their school education without any financial liability for their parents. As long as the girls are not an additional burden to them automatically the poor parents will prepare their minds to send their children to the school along with other neighboring children. Really speaking this measure is a great empowering measure as per the girl children who belong to the SC/ST are concerned. Because of public awareness the government is seriously and systematically implementing this scheme.

It is necessary to point out that the various schemes initiated by Puducherry Government are innovative and useful for women empowerment. However, the implementation of these schemes in a useful, user friendly way needs a lot of reforms at official levels. Further, the scholarships announced for women and girls should be increased periodically and should be given to them
without interruption. It is also necessary to strengthen the infrastructure facilities of all the Government Intuitions. Apart from this, to attract more and more students it is necessary to start job oriented courses in the Colleges. Above all, it is necessary to create job opportunities to the educated women in general and the rural women who belong to the first generation in particular, in order to encourage other poor parents to motivate their girl children also for further education, in spite their financial liabilities.