

**SUMMARY
AND
CONCLUSIONS**

CHAPTER V

Summary and Conclusions

Technology is widely recognised as an important factor in the development process. The role of science and Technology in accelerating the process of socio economic development is now accepted as the key mover by policy makers, social workers and promoters of technology. It is in the context of women in rural areas one has to consider the impact of technologies which will either help in attaining better life styles or in opening up employment avenues (Sharma and Dey, 1990).

Rural women are responsible for multiple labour intensive and time consuming chores, both outside and inside their homes. The various tasks carried out by women are labourious, time consuming and wasteful because of the rudimentary tools that women use.

A lot of new technology has been introduced into rural economies in the last hundred years. The important sphere where technological innovations and adoption is of crucial importance to women is that of household work. United nations conference on Decade of women (1980) held at Copenhagen (Denmark) emphasized the importance of alleviating

the daily burden of rural women and introduction of appropriate technology. A lot of drudgery which the women folk suffer can be eliminated by adoption of improved technology. The primary objective of improved technologies is thus to reduce the time spent on given activities whether it is in home or at farm and to relieve them of the strain associated with them.

One of the most direct ways of analysing the impact of technological changes on rural women is by considering their overall welfare implications in terms of the 'quality of life' of the women concerned rather than simply by considering income changes brought about by technological evolution and also the pattern of time disposition of these working women. (Bhaduri, 1985), Technology is therefore a mixed blessing as far as time is concerned. According to Degrazia (1962), adoption of technology has given people control over the use of their time, particularly their ability to participate in leisure and other non-work activities, that represent an improvement in the quality of their lives.

This study was designed to gain insight into the time spent in task performance by rural women, to explore traditional tools and technologies used in accomplishing their tasks, to find out knowledge level of rural women regarding improved technology and attitude towards adoption

of improved technologies. The study also aimed at unearthing the extent of adoption of improved technologies for various tasks, which would throw light on the quality of lives of rural women as reflected in work time, leisure time and drudgery.

Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study were :

1. To assess rural women's task performance in terms of :
 - a. Frequency of performance and extent of help received in household tasks.
 - b. Role of women in agricultural and household industry related tasks.
 - c. Time spent in performance of household tasks, agricultural tasks and household industry related tasks.
2. To explore the traditional tools/technologies used in the performance of various tasks.
3. To ascertain (i) knowledge level of rural women about improved technology and (ii) attitudes of rural women towards adoption of improved technology and to find out the relationship of selected variables with knowledge regarding improved technology and attitude towards adoption of improved technology.

4. To find out the extent of adoption of improved technology by rural women for various tasks and to determine the factors associated with adoption of improved technology.
5. To assess
 - (a) quality of life of rural women with reference to the impact of the use of improved technology on women's task performance as reflected in :
 - i. work time
 - ii. Availability of leisure time.
 - iii. Drudgery felt in task performance.
 - (b) and the general quality of life of rural households as indicated by :
 - i. Housing conditions.
 - ii. Health status of family as perceived by the respondents.
 - iii. Consumption expenditure
 - iv. Food consumption pattern.
6. To identify the variables influencing time spent on (i) household tasks (ii) agricultural tasks (iii) household industry related tasks.
7. To assess direct and indirect effect of related variables on (i) adoption of improved household technology (ii) time spent in total household work.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the state of Assam.

a. **Sample Selection :**

A multistage sampling design was adopted, treating purposive sampling of districts at the first stage, random selection of blocks at the second stage, random selection of villages at the third stage and systematic random selection of households at the final stage. List of households was obtained from Baseline Survey data 1988-89 as well as from the election office of the respective districts. Accordingly a sample of 270 respondents was selected by systematic random sampling procedure.

b. **Tool construction :**

An interview schedule was constructed for the study. Observation of a subsample of 27 households was conducted to verify the time use data reported by the respondents. The tool comprised of five sections. Section I contained Kulshrestha's Socio Economic scale (Rural) 1980 which provided information on respondents' demographic characteristics. Section II dealt with the information on task performance i.e. time spent on various tasks, availability of leisure time and leisure time activities of rural women. Section III included the informations on use of traditional tools for various tasks, adoption of improved

technology, advantages, difficulties faced while using improved technologies, and constraints faced in the acceptance of improved technologies. Section IV contained questions on respondents' extension contact and mass media exposure, knowledge statements to measure knowledge regarding improved technologies and attitude statements to measure attitude towards adoption of improved technology. Section V of the schedule was designed to elicit information on health status of family, frequency of illness of family members, consumption expenditure and meal pattern of rural households. The instruments were validated prior to its use for the pretesting by seeking expert opinion of a panel of judges. The schedule so developed was pretested on a sample of 30 households. Item analysis was done for the knowledge scale on the basis of difficulty index, discrimination index, and point biserial correlation. The knowledge scale thus consisted of twenty one items. Item analysis for attitude scale was carried out by using mean differences with modifications (Edwards, 1957) and thus attitude scale comprised of 12 statements. Reliability of the knowledge scale and attitude scales were established. The reliability coefficients were 0.80 and 0.93 respectively.

c. **Method of data collection**

Data were gathered personally by the investigator from homemakers on the interview schedule.

d. Analysis of Data

Both descriptive (frequency, percentage and mean) and relational statistics (Chi-square, coefficient of contingency, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation, path analysis, analysis of variance and t-test) were used for analysing the data.

Major findings of the study

Highlights of the findings of this investigation are reported below :

I Sample characteristics

(1) The mean age of the respondents was 36.30 years. Nearly one third of the respondents had highschool level education and 12.22 per cent were illiterate. Majority of the homemakers (70.00 per cent) were not employed and only 16.66 were gainfully employed outside their home. However, 13.33 per cent respondents were self employed. Mean family size was 6.18. Occupation of the head of the family was service in nearly 40 per cent of the families and farming in 34.81 per cent of the families. Mean monthly income of the families was Rs. 2289.00.

Maximum number of respondents belonged to upper caste families. More than one-third respondents' families had small landholding and 31.85 per cent families had large

landholding. A vast majority of respondents (84.07 per cent) had low extension contact whereas a sizeable percentage of respondents (37.77 per cent) had high exposure to mass media.

II Task performance by rural women.

(2) Frequency of performance and help received in household tasks : The findings revealed that meal preparation, care of utensils, care of clothes, care of house fetching of water and care of children were women's responsibilities. These tasks were performed daily by vast majority of respondents. Shopping was a 'rarely' or 'occasionally' performed task in the sample households. Collection of fuel was the least performed task by the respondents.

Daughters' help was received by respondents in tasks like cooking, care of utensils, ironing, care of house and fetching of water. Husbands' and sons' help was 'nil' in the tasks of food preparation and care of utensils, care of house while in fetching of water, shopping and fetching of fuel, the male members of the families extended help.

(3) Role played by respondents in agricultural tasks : It was found that only 70 per cent of the respondents participated in agricultural tasks. The respondents in the sample households had 'no role' in the tasks of preparation of seedbed and ploughing, seed sowing, irrigation,

application of fertilizer, and transportation of grains. Women played primary role in uprooting of seedlings, transplanting, harvesting and winnowing of grains, whereas majority of the respondents played secondary role in the tasks of weeding, threshing, drying of grains and storage.

(4) Role played by respondents in Household Industry : A vast majority of respondents' families (85.55 per cent) were engaged in handloom weaving followed by sericulture (23.70 per cent). A few families were engaged in village pottery, bamboo, and cane work and black smithery. However, women did not play any role in these household industries. Rural women played primary role in handloom weaving and sericulture.

(5) Participatin of respondents in allied tasks :

More than 67 per cent respondents participated in dairy related tasks. Milking was a female dominated task whereas grazing of cows, cutting of fodder, cleaning of cowshed etc.were male dominated tasks. Poultry keeping and kitchen gardening were common allied tasks in which women were involved. The products were mostly used for home consumption. Comparatively lower percentage of respondents were engaged in goat rearing, duckery and piggery. It is to be noted that scientific method was not followed in rearing of poultry or dairy farming. Women were not involved in the tasks meant for commercial production.

(6) Time spent per day on food preparation and related tasks was 231.95 minutes. Next to food preparation, maximum time was spent in care of utensils (58.81 minutes) followed by care of house (55.63 minutes). The group mean time spent on care of clothes was found to be 47.10 minutes while in care of children the households spent 33.30 minutes on an average although the actual time spent by the respondents who performed this task was 79.34 minutes. Shopping consumed 17.87 minutes on an average. The higher the socio economic status, more was the time spent in shopping. Only a negligible amount of time was spent by the respondents in collection of fuelwood. Total amount of mean time spent on household work was found to be 477.87 minutes. Socio economic status, age and family income showed variation in time spent on total household work.

Age of the respondents accounted for significant variation in time spent on food preparation, fetching of water and total household work time. Education level of respondents exerted significant influence for the tasks of fetching of water and care of utensils. Another personal variable employment status of respondents influenced time spent on food preparation, care of utensils, care of house, fetching of water, shopping and total household work time. Family size also accounted for significant variation in time spent on food preparation and care of house. Family

occupation exerted significant variation in the time spent on care of utensils, care of house, while caste accounted for variation in time spent in food preparation. Socio-economic status influenced the time spent in food preparation, care of utensils, care of house, fetching of water, shopping and on total household work time.

(7) Rural women in the sample households spent 46.98 minutes on an average allied tasks per day. There was not much variation observed among different socio economic status groups in time spent on allied agricultural tasks.

Employment status of the respondents', family income and family-occupation explained the significant variation in time spent on allied tasks.

(8) The time spent in sericulture was found to be 25.91 minutes/day by the sample households. The respondents from low SES group spent more time in this task than middle and high SES groups. In handloom weaving, the respondents spent 141.19 minutes on an average per day.

Education level of respondents, employment status, socio economic status, family income, family occupation and caste accounted for significant variation in time spent on sericulture. Moreover, education level of respondents, employment status and family occupation influenced the time spent in weaving.

(9) The time spent on agricultural tasks spread over the year as different tasks were performed in different seasons. The respondents spent 391.67 minutes on an average on uprooting of seedlings, 394.19 minutes in transplanting, 72.35 minutes in weeding, 394.58 minutes in harvesting, 86.41 minutes in threshing, 87.41 minutes in winnowing of grains and 22.33 minutes in husking and pounding of grains.

Employment status of the respondents, socio economic status, family occupation and caste exerted significant variation in time spent on uprooting of seedlings, transplanting and harvesting. Caste influenced the time spent in threshing and the time spent in winnowing was influenced by employment status of homemakers.

III Traditional Tools Technologies Used for various Tasks.

10. Utensils of bell metal used for various kitchen related tasks and social and religious tasks were common in the sample houses. Iron knives, fish cutters were possessed by cent per cent households. The traditional chulah was also possessed by cent percent households. 'Dhenki' was a traditional technology possessed by nearly 80 per cent households for dehusking of paddy, pounding and grinding of rice.

(11) Cent percent respondents performed the task of transplanting and harvesting manually. Sieves and bamboo

bins were used by all the respondents. Sickle was the tool used by the respondents for harvesting.

(12) For sericulture, cent per cent respondents used traditional tools. Bamboo tray, bamboo stick and triangular bamboo sieve were the common tools used for endi, muga and mulberry rearing while 'Takli' was used for endi spinning. 'Bhowri' was the traditional technology used for muga and mulberry reeling in the sample households. In handloom weaving, 56.27 per cent respondents used traditional throw shuttle loom. Other tools used in the handloom weaving in cent percent households were 'spinning wheel', shift, sizing swift, hand shuttle, reed and bobbin and all these were indigenously made of bamboo.

IV Knowledge Regarding Improved Technology And Attitudes Towards Adoption Of Improved Technology.

(13) Knowledge score was found to be 32.25 which indicates average knowledge the respondents had. Nearly 70 per cent respondents possessed average knowledge, whereas almost equal percentages (14.07 per cent and 16.29 per cent) possessed 'good' and poor knowledge respectively. 'A positive significant correlation was found between education level of respondents, employment status of the respondents, socio - economic status of households, exposure to mass media and attitude of respondents, whereas negative significant relationship was observed between the age of the respondents

and knowledge of the respondents regarding improved technology.

(14) The mean attitude score for the total sample was 28.03. Nearly 65 per cent respondents exhibited moderately favourable attitude towards adoption of improved technology, whereas one fifth respondents had less favourable attitude and only 14.44 per cent possessed highly favourable attitude towards adoption of improved technology.

Education level of the respondents, employment status of the respondents, socio economic status, exposure to mass media had positive significant relationship with the attitudes, whereas age had a negative significant relationship with attitudes of the respondents towards adoption of improved technology.

V Improved Technology Adopted by the Respondents for Various Tasks.

(15) Pressure cooker, stove, and cooking gas were the most common improved technologies used by the respondents for food preparation. For the care of clothes, sewing machines and electric iron were possessed by two-fifths of the respondents, Hand pump was possessed by one fourth of the respondents. Improved chulah i.e. Smokeless chulah and 'priyagni' shielded stove were possessed by 14.07 per cent respondents and the biogas was used by only 12.59 per cent respondents. Surprisingly, the low cost technologies like

janata refrigerator, haybox were not popular among the respondents, hence were not possessed by any of the respondents.

(16) Pressure cooker, stove, cooking gas, biogas and handpumps were regularly used technologies in the households. The electrical equipments like electric heater, electric kettle, immersion rod etc. were used by middle and high SES groups, 'occasionally' or 'rarely'. Electric irons and sewing machines were used 'regularly' or 'occasionally' by the respondents. Other electrical equipment like electric kettle, electric heater, immersion heating rod, electric oven were 'occasionally' or 'regularly' by the middle and high SES respondents. There was variation in 'frequency of use' of the technologies according to socio economic status.

(17) About 25 per cent respondents were 'non adopters' of improved household technology and 37.77 per cent respondents were 'medium' adopters and a low percentage of respondents (12.96 per cent) were high adopters of improved household technology. A large percentage of respondents from high SES groups were high adopters, whereas 50 per cent respondents from low SES group were non adopters of improved household technology. Nearly one-fourth of the respondents were low adopters of improved household technology.

(18) The Non commercial fuel, that is fuelwood was used by a vast majority of the respondents, whereas other non

commercial fuel namely agrowaste was used by only 23.70 per cent respondents. Commercial fuel such as kerosene was used by 50 percent respondents, and LPG was used by nearly two fifths of the respondents.

(19) Regarding the impact of improved household technology, most of the adopters felt that adoption of improved household technology had reduced their work load, reduced the work time, increased leisure time, improved environmental cleanliness and increased the convenience of work. Economic constraint was the major hindrance felt by majority of the non adopters in acceptance of improved technologies.

(20) There was no improved agricultural technology available for female dominated tasks and the tasks were performed manually. Only 10 per cent families owned tractors and power tillers for ploughing the field. Pumpsets and sprayers were possessed by negligible percentage of respondents' families. Mechanical winnower, thresher, seed drill, wheel hoe were completely absent in the rural households. The impact of mechanization as perceived by the majority of respondents was the improvement in physical surroundings. Educational and communicational constraints emerged as the major constraint for non adoption of improved technology by women. The economic constraint was conspicuous in acceptance of improved farm technologies for male dominated tasks.

(21) For handloom weaving, 43.72 percent respondents used

flyshuttle loom, of which 57 percent were from middle SES group followed by high SES group. Only a few respondents used 'charkha' for spinning. Increased production and improved quality of product, decreased work time, were the positive impact on perceived by majority of adopters. The socio cultural constraint was the major constraint for non adoption of improved household industry related technology. Education of the respondents, employment status, knowledge of homemaker, attitude of the respondents, socio economic status, family income family occupation and caste were significantly associated with adoption of improved household technology. Adoption of improved household industry related technology was affected by employment status of homemakers, socio economic status, family income, family size and family occupation.

VI Quality of Life of Rural Households.

(22) Mean leisure time available to the respondents was 118.14 minutes. Social visit was found to be the most popular leisure activity followed by sewing and knitting and 'listening to radio'.

(23) Mean drudgery scores earned by respondents in performance of household tasks was 7.70, in agricultural tasks 8.61 and in household industry related tasks was 5.75 thus indicating that the highest drudgery was felt by respondents in performance of agricultural tasks and the

least drudgery was felt in performance of household industry related tasks.

(24) Time spent in meal preparation decreased as the adoption level of improved household technology increased. The mean time spent in care of utensils, care of house, fetching of water also decreased as the adoption level increased. Total household work time for the non adopters of improved household technology was 523.94 minutes, whereas the high adopters had a mean time of 442.54 minutes. The adoption of improved technology accounted for significant variation of the mean time spent in the tasks of food preparation, care of utensils, care of house, fetching of water and shopping and total household work time.

(25) Mean leisure time available to non adopters of improved household technology was 113.11 minutes, whereas high adopters had leisure time of 132.97 minutes at their disposal. There was no significant variation in leisure time of respondents according to adoption level of improved household technology.

(26) Mean drudgery scores earned by the non adopters of improved household technology was 8.76 whereas drudgery score earned by high adopter was 6.08 indicating decrease of drudgery scores with the increase of adoption level. Adoption level of improved technology accounted for significant variation in drudgery felt by respondents in performance of

household tasks.

(27) Mean time spent by adopters of improved household industry related technology was 165.63 minutes, whereas the non adopters spent 145.08 minutes in weaving which indicated that the adopters spent more time in work than the non adopters. Availability of leisure time was almost the same for the adopters (AIHIT) and non adopters (NAIHIT). Drudgery scores obtained by adopters was 5.15 whereas drudgery score by non adopters was 6.12. There was significant difference in weaving time between adopters and non adopters of improved household industry related technology whereas no significant difference was found in the leisure time and the drudgery felt between these two groups.

(28) Work time, leisure time and drudgery could not be assessed according to adoption level of improved agricultural technology as there was dearth of agricultural technology for women in the sample households.

(29) Socio economic status, attitude of homemakers and family income were the three factors which had the maximum direct effect on adoption of improved household technology. On the other hand mass media exposure, family income, education of respondents contributed maximum to the adoption indirectly, most of the variables exerted the largest indirect effect through socio economic status, whereas the socio economic status exerted largest indirect effect through family income.

Knowledge and caste exerted largest indirect effect through attitude of the respondents towards improved technology.

(30) Adoption of improved household technology had the maximum negative effect on household work time followed by employment status of the homemakers, socio economic status and family income. The largest indirect effect exerted by socio economic status, family income and employment status were through adoption of improved household technology on household work time.

(31) Nearly 40 percent respondents owned 'semi pacca' and 'pacca' houses whereas only one-fifth of the respondents owned 'katcha' houses. A vast majority of respondents' (82.96 per cent) houses were electrified.

More than 55 per cent respondents perceived their health as 'good' and nearly three fourth respondents perceived their husbands' and children's health as good. Frequency of illness was 'rare' in case of large percentage of respondents' (57.93 per cent), husbands (71.11 per cent) and children (68.52 per cent).

(32) Food expenditure of the sample households decreased as the socio economic status increased i.e. percentage spent on food was 66.62, 55.80 and 53.11 in low, middle and high SES groups respectively.

(33) The calorie and protein intake in majority of the

families from low, middle and high SES groups were adequate, hence food quality was relatively better in the sample households.

Conclusions

On the basis of the findings of this investigation, the following conclusions are drawn :

Rural women possessed average knowledge regarding improved household technology and exhibited moderately favourable attitude towards adoption of improved technology. Better the knowledge regarding improved technology, more favourable was the attitude towards adoption of improved technology.

Rural women had comparatively better access to improved household technology although adoption of low cost technologies like haybox, janata refrigerator etc. was found to be nil. The non commercial fuel like fuelwood is still used in the rural households irrespective of socio economic status.

Improved technology for household industry is mostly adopted in weaving, whereas use of traditional technology is predominant in sericulture.

There is no adoption of improved agricultural technology for women dominated tasks by rural women.

The highest drudgery is felt in performance of agricultural tasks and the least drudgery is felt in performance of the household industry related tasks.

Socio economic status emerged as an important determinant of adoption of improved household technology and adoption of improved household technology plays important intervening role on household work time.

The adopters of improved household technology have enjoyed relatively a better quality of life as household work time and drudgery have been reduced for them for household tasks. But as far as leisure time is concerned, there is no appreciable increase in leisure time with the increase of adoption of improved household technology. On the other hand, in case of household industry related tasks, adoption of improved technology resulted in increased work time, decrease of leisure time while drudgery has been reduced to some extent. As household industry related task is a productive task, the technological change is income augmenting, but leisure reducing. It can be concluded that adoption of improved technology for household industry has enhanced quality of life of rural women by supplementing real or money income to the family and providing psychological contentment to the women.

Implications of the study

The findings of the investigation brought out a number of important implications for all concerned departments, personnel, development programmes and educational institutions.

1. Access of women to communication personnels was found to be poor—in majority of cases. There seems to be a case for a change in content of existing extension services. They should be aimed at improving the well being of the family by reducing the workload of women or increasing their income. Consciousness raising of the rural women is the first step towards any dissemination or education programme. They must learn that drudgery is involved in performance of some of the tasks and there is a need to alleviate it. Various women development organisation can ontribute a lot in this respect through extension services.

2. Adoption of improved technology was higher in high socio economic status group, but the women from lower strata were not having improved technology. Economic constraint had emerged as the major constraint in acceptance of improved technologies. Therefore, there is a need to devise low cost technologies for reducing drudgery of rural women and utilising locally available resources were possible. Home economists, extension administrators, technologists, and extension personnel have a significant role to play in this

respect. Moreover, a large number of technologies are already available which are suitable for women's upliftment. There is a great need of dissemination of information of these technologies among women, and motivate the people to take benefit of science and technology. This could be achieved through formal and informal educational programme.

3. As non commercial fuel i.e. fuelwood was extensively used in the households, there is an urgent need to educate the families regarding depleting fuel sources and to encourage the rural women to adopt alternative energy sources. The gohar gas plant should be installed on community basis and made accessible to the low economic strata households. Subsidy should be increased in installing biogas to popularise its use among the economically backward families.

4. Despite government's efforts to popularize improved cooking stoves, only a low percentage of families were adopting it. Adoption of solar cooker was found to be nil. The smokeless chulah programme initiated by the Department of Non Conventional Energy Sources, Ministry of Energy, Govt. of India should be implemented in all parts of the state. Extension personnels, voluntary organisations should take keen interest even after installing improved chulahs to find out the constraints faced while using the technologies which would only facilitate in propularizing the technologies. The

Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) scheme should be extended for large scale involvement of rural people and should be evaluated on the basis of acceptance or rejection.

5. Knowledge of rural women about improved technology specially of low cost technologies should be improved through demonstrations, exhibitions and discussions to formulate more favourable attitude towards adoption of improved low cost technologies. This has implications for Agricultural Universities and Home Science Colleges and other educational institutions.

6. Adoption of improved agricultural technologies by rural women was found to be nil inspite of their high involvement in agricultural tasks. These agricultural operations are labour intensive and involve drudgery. In order to reduce drudgery from farm operations, there is a great need for educating the rural women to adopt improved implements which would increase their work output and efficiency. The properly designed equipments which are culturally and socially acceptable to the rural women should be popularized through extension programme. A big gap in our extension programmes has been the exclusion of women from programmes related to agriculture though their contribution is significant. Training programmes should be organised for rural women after a survey of training needs of the different categories of women engaged in farm operations. The Farmers

Training Centres should provide skill oriented composite training. Short term institutional training programme on technology should be organised for women.

7. Attempts should be made by voluntary organisations to encourage rural women to adopt improved technologies such as pressure cookers, cooking gas, stove and labour saving tools for household tasks to reduce women's worktime and use it for productive activities. Rural women should be extended loan for purchase of such devices at nominal interest rate by village banks or cooperative banks. Arrangements can be made through cooperatives to provide the equipments on hire-purchase basis.

8. Analysis of rural women's work showed that women were involved in allied agricultural tasks such as dairy, poultry, kitchen gardening, goat keeping etc., but scientific method was not followed in rearing livestock or other allied tasks. Women need to be trained to follow scientific practices for commercial production of various products which would enable them to be self supporting. Credit and marketing facilities should be made available to the women.

9. The findings revealed that women were not involved in any of the income generating activities except the household industries like weaving and sericulture. Certain self employment projects which can cater to the needs of women are bamboo basket weaving, embroidery, stitching, knitting,

preservation of fruits and vegetables, making utility articles from local resources, processing of cereals and pulses, cottage match making, manufacturing handmade paper, lime manufacturing, making non edible oils and soap making etc. The promotion and development of village industries would constitute a major step in improving the quality of life of women through economic contribution. Moreover, these are most suited to women-folk as it is convenient for them to attend to it after or while attending to domestic chores. Raw materials, equipments and financial and technical assistance must be made available to women through village cooperatives, social welfare boards and Khadi and Village Industries Commission at Central and State level, Mahila Mandals, Youth clubs and other voluntary organisations should play important role in activating local Government. There should be proper marketing facilities for selling the products so that women would be benefited the most, not the middle men. Rural women should be given proper training in technical 'know how' of the new household industry related technologies as well as their advantages in order to motivate them to adopt the improved technologies for household industries for for improving quality of life of the households as well as of the women.

10. Action oriented research with emphasis on the existing traditional technologies should be geared to develop appropriate technologies, as acceptance of new technologies

depends not only on low cost and high returns, but on simplicity and similarities with traditional practices. An attempt must be made to encourage technologists to consult rural women at the stage of designing new technologies. This would help to ensure that technologies are designed with the cultural, social and economic circumstances of the potential end users in mind.

Recommendations for further research

1. Impact of improved technology may be assessed by considering income component in terms of production/unit and satisfaction derived from work.
2. Observation method or case study can be carried out to find out the actual time spent and drudgery involved in performance of various tasks by adopters and non adopters of improved technology.
3. A study can be planned to assess the suitability of existing improved agricultural technology for women and also to design simple tools for the tasks in which improved technologies are absent.