ABSTRACT
The growth of adult education in India is in consonance with the global trend of viewing it as a basic human right, a development right in its most comprehensive sense. India has accorded Adult Education the status of a "Required Minimum need" and given it a prominent place in the process of planned development.

Various studies have been conducted from time to time on the inter-related areas of programme management and programme evaluation in Adult Education. The largest number of evaluation studies have been reported from the State of Bihar and Gujarat, with Maharashtra and Rajasthan following in third and fourth position. The institutions that have conducted these studies are the A. N. Sinha Institute, Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Sardar Patel Institute of Economics and Social Research, and Indian Institute of Management.

Ganguli, Pathak and Mirza (1983) have reported an excessive literacy bias in the programme and low achievement in functionality and awareness. Sachchidanand et al (1983) assessed the work undertaken by the

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Nehru Yuvak Kendras and pointed out that same set of result and problems as have been pointed in other studies. Case (1982) adopted an ex-postfacto design of evaluation. It pointed out serious gaps in management, target coverage, planning etc. In addition to this the study reported learner and instructor truancy as well. Visaria and Patel (1984) observed many defects in the management of the programme and pointed out that the organizers' perceptions of the programme require greater clarity.

An objective analysis of these studies revealed that the programme mainly rotated round literacy neglecting the other two components of the programme; i.e. awareness and functionality. There is again a common feeling among policy planners and executors that the programme does not run smoothly and is not able to accomplish the formulated objectives. Therefore, the objectives underlying the Adult Education programme need to be analysed scientifically and objectively so that measures for further improvement can be suggested. The adult education programme launched from time to time need to be evaluated and reviewed to ensure the implementation of the programme for realizing the basic objectives.

It is against this background that the present investigator chose to undertake the study entitled "An..."
objective-based Evaluation of adult education programme in Valley. It is a modest attempt to evaluate adult education programme vis-a-vis its three levels of objectives. The first level of objectives pertains to literacy skills. The second and third level of objectives are related to use of literacy (awareness) and participation (functionality) respectively. Accordingly, the study was designed to evaluate adult education programme in the valley of Kashmir with specific objectives formulated for each component of the programme.

The basic purpose of the present study was to undertake an objective based evaluation of adult education programme in the six districts of the valley. The following three levels of objective were set forth for the purpose.

At the outset, a preliminary survey of the adult education beneficiaries (male and female) enrolled in the adult education centres in Kashmir valley was conducted. The survey showed the enrolment of 79527 learners in 1240 adult education centres throughout the valley. The sample for the present study was thus fixed as 10% of the centres and accordingly an such 1198 adult beneficiaries were selected on the basis of a combination of random and quota sampling technique. Only those beneficiaries were selected who had attended adult education centres for about 8-9 months of their programme.
The tools for the present study were prepared by the investigator. A Self-Constructed and Standardized Achievement Test was used for the measurement of literacy skills. Two separate interview schedules prepared for the purpose of the present study were employed for determining the levels of awareness and functionality.

The learners were contacted personally. The literacy achievement test was administered in groups in each adult education centre. The interviews, however, were conducted individually in a cordial and conducive atmosphere. The data collected was subjected to several statistical techniques including percentage and t-test. Sex-wise and district-wise comparisons of the adult beneficiaries was made in the components of literacy skills, awareness and functionality.

The study has revealed several interesting findings. Some of these are reported as under:-

1. The two groups of subjects i.e. male and female adult learners of the valley were found not to differ significantly on literacy component. However, the mean difference favoured the female beneficiaries. This indicated that female beneficiaries comparatively, achieve better on the literacy skills.

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While comparing male and female adult beneficiaries within a district, it was found that out of six comparisons made for this purpose only in two districts, the mean difference have been found to be significant. In the districts of Baramulla and Kupwara the two groups of adult beneficiaries i.e. male and female have been found to be significantly different from each other. In case of Baramulla District, male beneficiaries have been found to be higher on literacy skills whereas in case of Kupwara district female beneficiaries have been found to excel in literacy skills. In rest of the cases, the mean difference with respect to literacy skills has failed to arrive at any level of significance.

On the basis of mean scores it has been found that the adult beneficiaries in general in the district of Badgam are higher on learning skills and the beneficiaries in the district of Kupwara are the lowest on these skills. Out of the fifteen comparisons made between beneficiaries belonging to various districts, only in six cases, the mean difference has been found to be significant. These comparisons are Anantnag v/s Kupwara, Anantnag v/s Badgam, Kupwara v/s Badgam, Kupwara v/s Baramulla, Kupwara v/s Pulwama and Kupwara v/s Srinagar. In
rest of the cases the mean difference has failed to reach any level of significance. This implies that learners in the district of Anantnag are significantly different on their literacy skills as compared to the beneficiaries of Kupwara and Badgam. In the same way beneficiaries belonging to the district Kupwara have been found to lag behind significantly in the area of literacy skills.

4. Applying sub-group analysis a comparison was made by controlling the sex, by way of comparing male beneficiaries from one district with the male beneficiaries of other district and also female beneficiaries of one district with female beneficiaries of other six districts. This type of analysis is based on twelve comparisons and has revealed the same trend as has been shown in the district-wise comparison of adult beneficiaries taken together.

5. The two groups of adult education beneficiaries i.e. male and female learners of the valley were found not to differ significantly on awareness component. However the mean difference favoured male beneficiaries. This implies that male beneficiaries are comparatively aware than their female counterpart.

6. While comparing male and female adult education beneficiaries within the district, it was found
that out of six comparisons only in one case, i.e. district Srinagar, the mean difference has been found significantly different. In the four districts i.e. Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara and Pulwama, male beneficiaries were found higher on the awareness component, whereas in district Badgam on the basis of mean difference female beneficiaries were found higher on the awareness component. However, the mean difference in the five districts excepting Srinagar fails to arrive at any level of significance.

On the basis of mean scores, it has been found that the adult education beneficiaries in general in the district of Pulwama are higher on awareness component and the beneficiaries of district Kupwara were lower. Out of fifteen comparisons made for the purpose between beneficiaries belong to various district, only in five cases, the mean difference has been found to be significant. These comparisons are Anantnag v/s Kupwara, and Kupwara v/s Badgam, Kupwara v/s Baramulla, Kupwara v/s Pulwama and Kupwara v/s Srinagar. In rest of the cases, the mean difference has failed to arrive at any level of significance. This reveals that the beneficiaries of districts Kupwara are lagging
behind significantly and are less informed on awareness programmes.

8. On the basis of sub-group analysis, after controlling the sex a comparison was made by way of comparing male beneficiaries from one district with the male beneficiaries of other district and also female beneficiaries of one district with those of the other district. This type of analysis resulting in twelve comparisons has revealed that the male beneficiaries of Badgam are significantly different from male beneficiaries of two other districts viz., Anantnag and Baramulla on the awareness component. In the same way, the beneficiaries of Kupwara district were found to lag behind significantly on awareness programmes.

9. A district-wise comparison of beneficiaries was made on various dimensions of awareness component with regard to pre and post-natal care of a child, social evils, formal schooling, adult literacy, rights and duties of a citizen, food and nutrition, small family norm, income generating schemes, coordination with the developmental departments. Regarding pre and post natal care of a child, rights and duties of a citizen it was found that the adult education beneficiaries of
district Baramulla and Pulwama were found higher followed by other four districts. On the dimension of 'Food and Nutrition', beneficiaries of district Anantnag were found to be on higher side followed by district Srinagar and Badgam. In rest of the districts i.e. Pulwama and Baramulla and Kupwara, the beneficiaries were not found to score so high. Regarding the remaining dimensions i.e. small family norm, social evils, formal schooling, adoption of income generating schemes and linkages with developmental departments the beneficiaries of all the six districts were found to possess a low level of awareness alike.

10. The two groups of subjects i.e. male and female beneficiaries of the valley were found not to be significantly different from each other on the functionality component. However, the mean difference favours the female beneficiaries. This indicates that female beneficiaries comparatively are making better use of adult education programmes.

11. While comparing male and female adult education beneficiaries in each district it was found that in four districts the mean differences have been found to be significant. In the districts of Anantnag, Badgam, Pulwama and Srinagar, the two
groups of subjects have been found to be significantly different from each other. In case of Anantnag, Badgam and Pulwama, female beneficiaries have been found higher on application of literacy skills. In case of district Srinagar male beneficiaries in comparison to female beneficiaries were found to be on the higher side so far as the utility and benefits of literacy programmes are concerned. In district Baramulla and Kupwara the mean difference failed to arrive at any level of significance.

12. On the basis of mean scores, it has been found that the adult education beneficiaries in general in the district of Anantnag are higher on Functionality component (Participation) and the beneficiaries in the district Kupwara were lowest. Out of the fifteen comparisons made between beneficiaries of six districts of the valley, only in eight cases, the mean differences were found to be significant. These comparisons are Anantnag v/s Kupwara, Anantnag v/s Badgam, Kupwara v/s Badgam, Kupwara v/s Baramulla, Kupwara v/s Pulwama, Kupwara v/s Srinagar, Badgam v/s Baramulla, Badgam v/s Srinagar. In rest of the cases the mean difference has failed to arrive at any level of significance. This implies that the beneficiaries
of districts of Baramulla, Srinagar and district Anantnag are significantly different on their applicability and functionality component of adult education programme, as compared to the beneficiaries of Badgam and Kupwara. This implies that the beneficiaries of district Kupwara and Badgam have been found lagging behind significantly in the area of application, participation and utilization of benefits of adult education programme.

13. Applying the sub-group analysis a comparison was made by controlling sex by way of comparing male beneficiaries from one district with male beneficiaries of other district and female beneficiaries of one district with female beneficiaries of the other six districts. Out of twelve comparisons, only in five cases the mean difference has been found to be significant. This has revealed the same trend as has been shown in the district-wise comparison of beneficiaries taken together.

14. A district-wise comparison of the two groups of beneficiaries was made on various dimensions of functionality component viz., application of knowledge, metric system, currency, unit of time, adult education centres and its benefits, basic principles of health and hygiene, use of agricult-

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tural manures, schemes etc. Regarding metric system, currency, unit of time and basic principles of health and hygiene it was found that the beneficiaries of six districts possessed information to an equal extent. Regarding adult education centres, use of new agricultural schemes, manures and equipment, the beneficiaries of district Badgam and Srinagar were found to possess some level of information, whereas in case of District Baramulla and Pulwama, the beneficiaries were higher only on the dimension of use of new agricultural schemes and were found to be less informed about adult education centres and its benefits. Regarding the application of knowledge, the beneficiaries of district Anantnag and Pulwama were found to be on higher side followed by beneficiaries of district Srinagar, Baramulla, Badgam and Kupwara.