SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of analysis of data, this research study suggests the following for the better implementation of the AEP so that it is able to cover the target groups among rural illiterate women.

1. This study shows that a large number of women in the older age groups had not availed the benefits of AEP either because of age old inhibitions or due to pre-occupation with household and agricultural chores. Hence more concerted efforts should be made to attract women from the older age groups.

2. The experience of this researcher was that due to the purdah system, a strong Paternalistic social system and strong fundamentalistic views. Muslim women had not been encouraged to join the AEP classes by their men folk. Hence, Muslim women had not been able to avail of the benefits of adult education. For the overall development of the village and of women in particular, these women need to be motivated to join the AEP either through the appointment of more women instructors or by properly creating a better public opinion among their men folk.

3. The AEP should have more income-generating components in their lessons, than mere emphasis on the 3 Rs and functional literacy. Since most rural women come from poor backgrounds, these women do not feel that mere reading and writing will help them to better their quality of life unless they can
put to good use their newly acquired education to generation of some income
to meet their daily expenses.

4. This study reveals that even some of those respondents who had good basic
education had joined the AEP (even those who had passed the PUC). Hence,
more efforts should be made to enroll illiterate village women and perhaps make
use of educated girls in the village to help motivate them to join the AEP.

5. The AEP should make more extensive use of media generating forms such
as street plays, audio visual equipments, folk songs, etc, to reach the target
groups. This would be a more 'grass-roots level' method approach to get
women interested in the AEP.

6. Many of the respondents of this study complained that the time during
which the Adult Education Programmes were held was not at all suitable for
them. Hence, the programme should be held during early evening when the
women are free form their daily chores, or during the night.

7. Many of the respondents of this study also complained that the AEP was
held during peak harvest seasons which was not suitable for them. Hence, the
programme should be held during other seasons, to enable more women to
participate in the AEP and reap the benefits.

8. More number of lady instructors should be appointed to teach the women as
the number of such instructors are too few. Illiterate rural women are basically
very shy, especially when being acquainted with lessons on the Small Family
Norm, benefits of breast feeding etc, and need more privacy and a more sympathetic approach from lady instructors.

9. Again, when teaching the women the benefits of Health and Hygiene etc, it is better to segregate the sexes and have separate classes for men and women.

10. Many respondents who were really interested in the AEP were not happy with the period of the campaign. They felt that they were too short a duration to make any worth-while impact on the learners. Hence, the programmes should be of longer duration and there should also be repeated follow-up programmes over a period of time so that the rural folk will slowly but surely become better educated and will inculcate the different aspects of better living.