CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
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This chapter presents the summary of the findings reported already in detail in the previous chapter. This is an investigation of “Upliftment of rural womenfolk in the outskirts of Chennai by Correspondence courses”. This has been carried out by one tool questionnaire – for the women in the outskirts of Chennai.

The results are based upon the data collected from the women concerned. The sample includes 242 women. The findings are summarized under the following headings: academic, personal status, family status, opinion of relatives and friends, reason for studying through correspondence courses, religious customs, reaction of boss in the working place, financial capacity and future benefit, usefulness of the course, fundamental rights, social awareness and upliftment in the village.

Major findings

Academic

The word ‘academic’ involves two sections.

1) Medium of instruction and

2) Courses studied through correspondence.
Under medium of instruction comes women who studied correspondence courses through English medium and Tamil medium. 64% of the women studied correspondence courses through English medium and 36% of women studied correspondence courses through Tamil medium. This shows that most of the women prefer to study the courses in English medium. The foreign language has attracted a lot of women since women think that if they study in English medium their job opportunity will be very high.

The second section includes three components: Graduates, Post Graduates and trainees. More than 60% of the married women have preferred to study post graduate courses and among the women who are unmarried most of them say they are interested in training courses. Women in the low income group also prefer to study training courses. Employed women also have an attraction towards training courses. The overall view of women shows that most of the women are interested in studying training courses through correspondence.

**Personal Status and Position in Society**

Women belonging to backward caste, most backward caste and other castes have gained respect in society to a certain extent by studying through correspondence courses. Women are of the opinion that their study through English medium had uplifted them further in the society and in their working place. But among the Scheduled caste women only 52% say that they have improved their personal status by studying through correspondence courses.
Family Status

In the view of the women educated through correspondence courses, women belonging to backward, most backward and other castes have gained more respect in society as far as family status is concerned. In the same way women living in nuclear families say that they have improved their family status by studying through correspondence courses compared to the women living in joint families.

Opinion of relatives and friends

As far as the friends and relatives are concerned a small group of women got encouragement from their friends and relatives to study through correspondence courses. Around 25% of the women say that their relatives and friends discouraged them to study through correspondence courses. Some women say that their friends and relatives felt jealous and developed ill-feeling towards them because they pursued their studies through correspondence courses. 2% of the women had relatives who considered correspondence course as a boon to women and 10% of the women had friends who also got motivated to study through correspondence courses.

Reason for studying through correspondence courses

If the marital status of women is considered, among the women who are single 72% say that they studied through correspondence because of the family situation and health problem and 57% to get higher degrees. Only 46% say that
they studied through correspondence courses only to gain more knowledge. Most of the married women studied through correspondence courses to get promotion and increment. 59% of the women in the age group above 32 say that they studied through correspondence courses because of financial problem. Among the unemployed women 37% say that they studied through correspondence courses to gain more knowledge and 86% of the employed women to get promotion and increment.

Religious Customs

More than 50% of the Scheduled caste women say that religious customs stood in their way while studying through correspondence courses. Single and married women also accept the fact that they have experienced problems due to religious customs while studying through correspondence courses.

Reaction of boss in the working place

Most of the employed women got encouragement from their heads to study through correspondence courses. As for as the total sample of women are concerned 35% are of the opinion that they got encouragement from their heads to study through correspondence courses. 18% of women got help from their heads to study through correspondence courses.

Financial Capacity and Future Benefit

Women living in joint and nuclear families are of the opinion that there is association between them regarding the amount spent for correspondence education compared to their financial capacity and future benefit. Among the
Scheduled caste women more than 60% say that the amount spent for correspondence courses is reasonably high compared to their financial capacity.

Usefulness of the Course

Among the Scheduled caste women 30% of them say that the course studied through correspondence is irrelevant to their job and occupation. Considering the total sample of women 27% say that they got promotion by studying through correspondence courses and 7% say that they got employment because of their education through correspondence courses. For 20% of the women the courses that they studied through correspondence helped them to teach efficiently.

Fundamental Rights

Most of the women in the age groups of 33 – 37 and 38 and above are aware of the fundamental rights such as equal status, equality before law, and equal protection of law. Women living in joint and nuclear families and employed women are also aware of the fundamental rights. Among the women who are not belonging to Scheduled Caste more than 75% are aware of the fundamental rights. But among Scheduled caste women 44% are aware of the fundamental rights and more than 50% are ignorant about the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Social Awareness and Constitutional Rights

62% of the women not belonging to the Scheduled Caste are of the opinion that they have gained ideas regarding social awareness by studying
through correspondence courses. But only 42% Scheduled caste women say that they have gained ideas regarding social awareness by studying through correspondence courses. Among the Scheduled caste women only 56% say that they know about the fee concession given to the SC/ST women by the government to improve their education.

Most of the women who studied through correspondence courses are really delighted in talking and discussing about women’s liberties and rights with their friends.

52% of the women are genuinely interested in women’s welfare and the activities related to it.

**Upliftment Because of Correspondence Education**

Only 36% of the Scheduled caste women in the outskirts of Chennai genuinely feel that they got upliftment because of correspondence education. But among the other caste women 61% genuinely feel that they got upliftment because of correspondence education. There is a vast difference of opinion between women of various castes and women born in rural and urban places regarding the upliftment. More than 60% of Scheduled caste women are of the opinion that correspondence courses have really given them upliftment.

**Encouragement**

75% of the women say that they will encourage their friends and relatives to study through correspondence courses since they got upliftment by studying through correspondence courses.
Recommendations

Job Orientation

Most of the women are of the opinion that the courses they have studied through correspondence has meager relationship to the job they are holding. Hence women should be advised through mass media to select courses relating to their job or to study courses which would fetch them job in the future.

Religious Customs

India is a secular country. But most of the Scheduled caste women say that religious customs stood in their way and they faced hindrance while studying through correspondence courses. So public and religious leaders should be told of the hindrance faced by the Scheduled Caste women in pursuing their studies through correspondence education.

Priority to Women

Most of the women who studied through correspondence courses through Tamil medium say that they are not getting due respect in job and occupation. Hence it is suggested that women who studied through Tamil medium should be given priority in job and occupation.

Social Awareness

Most of the women in the outskirts of Chennai are lacking in social awareness, they are also ignorant of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India. So they should be made aware of these things through mass media.
Cost Analysis and Fee Concessions

Among the Scheduled caste women more than 60% are of the opinion that the amount spent for correspondence course is reasonably high compared to their financial capacity. It is shocking and surprising to note that 40% of Scheduled caste women are ignorant of the fee concession given to them by the Government. It is very important that the Scheduled caste women should be made aware of the fee concessions by mentioning the same in the prospectus or in some other mass media.

Motivation

It is pertinent to note that women should be motivated to encourage their friends and relatives to study through correspondence courses.

Upliftment in the Village

There is upliftment among the women residing in the outskirts of Chennai, and they attained this upliftment because they studied through correspondence courses. It is also surprising to note that only a small portion of them are able to realise this fact. So meetings and programmes can be held in the villages to make the women realise the upliftment they have attained in the village and in their family by studying through correspondence courses.
Suggestions for Further Study

Macro Study

The present study is restricted to the outskirts of Chennai. This kind may be focused to the State and National population with special reference to women folk.

> Following are the suggested topics for future study.

> Indian women and their upliftment through correspondence courses.

> The effect of correspondence courses in creating social awareness.

> Women living in Metropolitan cities and their upliftment through correspondence courses.

Comparitive Study

The present study is conducted only on women population. Comparitive study can also be made with respect to the following topics.

> Upliftment of males and females in rural areas

> Upliftment of males and females in urban areas

> Women who studied through correspondence education and women who studied through formal education.

Wider Outlook

The present study is conducted with a limited number of variables. This is a multidimensional problem and so it will be rewarding to identify number of related variables and investigate their impact individually and collectively. The following variables can be studied.
- Religion
- Social customs
- Education (Academic/Vocational)

Policy Makers

A national survey on the lines of this study is worthwhile since it will be useful for the policy makers at the helm of affairs. A national survey can be conducted to find out the percentage of women who have exclusively studied through correspondence courses solely because of the financial strain and physical infirmities. Certain percentage of jobs at the national level can be exclusively reserved for them. This would encourage most of the women to study through correspondence courses.

The Government of India has now come out with a bill to reserve 33% of the seats to the women in the Parliament and in the State Legislatures. In the said 33% certain percentage can be reserved for women who have studied exclusively through correspondence courses because of their rural background or of their financial strain or physical infirmities. This would attract more rural women to pursue their studies through correspondence education and that in turn would give them upliftment in the society.