Chapter 7
Policy Implications and
Scope for Further Research
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There are various policies undertaken by Government of Karnataka to improve the status of Women and to eradicate the disparities that exists between and among different regions of Mysore district. The important policies and programmes are mentioned below.

Policies and Programmes already in force

- There are various programmes implemented by the Government of Karnataka to uplift the socio-economic condition of women. Some of the important programmes are:
  - Distribution of free uniform is one of the main programmes that has benefited girl children of the schools in the district. Both boys and girls are given school uniforms at free of cost, because they cannot afford them.
  - Mid day meals is another beneficial scheme in schools, which offers mid day meals to the poor and marginalized families children to encourage them to be enrolled in schools. The coverage is 100 percent in all the taluks of Mysore district and the mid day meals are given to children studying in Government and Aided schools upto class VII. The meal is cooked and is nutritious, taking care of the needs of the specific age groups of both boys and girls of poor and marginalized families.

Apart from the Education Department, the ISKON Mysore is also providing cooked mid-day meals to selected schools in Mysore, city under the ‘AKSHAYA PATHRE YOJANE. Recently the Government has taken a decision to provide eggs and plantains along with the mid-day meals to the children to boost their energy levels, especially through Protein, Calcium and Magnesium.
• Providing Bicycles to Girls and class VIII is an innovative programme of the Government of Karnataka. The girl children of the Government and aided high schools, belonging to families below poverty line and studying in class VIII are the beneficiaries. This is indeed a scheme that out of the girl children’s lives the drudgery of walking to schools, sometimes more than 3 to 5 km from the villages around the schools. The estimate has it that all the girl children hailing from the families of below poverty live have been given bicycles to facilitate their travelling to and from schools. This is also an encouragement shown to girl children’s education in the poor and marginalized families which have a tendency to withdraw the children from schools for social, cultural and economic reasons.

• The awareness programmes have to be conducted for girls in backward area where gender-literacy gap in large. This awareness programme is known as Jagruthi Shibira, this backward areas have already been identified for conducting the awareness programmes.

• Another programme like mobile schools which have benefited in Mysore city. There are more than 100 houses in the Yellamma slum of the urban Mysore. The people living here are workers, loading and unloading goods trains at the railway station, sixty-one of their children walk to the Government school at Bannimantap extension, which is 2kms away. They need to cross the main road during the heavy traffic. The distance to school and the roads with heavy traffic have been the demotivating factors for the children. In order to ensure that they go to school regularly, transport facilities have been provided with the co-operation of the KSRTC in the year 2006-07. Though it was planned to give only one mobile facility in the Bannimantap area, the Government has provided one mobile facility to 65 children of Yekalavya Nagar slum of rural Mysore. Even now, it is very difficult to provide access to the children in this slum due to non-availability of a suitable site for schools. The nomadic people are temporarily settled in the slum. Their
children have to walk 3 kms from their place to the nearby Metagalli Government school. Therefore, it has been decided to continue this facility.

- Various projects have undertaken by Government of Karnataka to improve the health and nutritional status of the people of Mysore district. All primary health units have been upgraded to Primary Health Centre (PHGs) from the year 2008-2009. Expert consultations are obtained through Networked Taluk General Hospitals and diseases are treated under telemedicine programmes.

There is now the availability of 24x7 days hours service on delivery and curative aspects in rural areas. For safe ante-natal case, ‘Madilu kit’ is provided to those eligible women who deliver babies at the Government hospitals. Incentives are also given for institutional deliveries for poor women.

- Apart from this, the Health Department has implemented some projects such as : Reproductive and Child Health Services (RCH) Project marks a change in the existing culture of achieving targets by shifting to the policy of providing quality services. This project helps clients to meet their own health and family planning needs through the full range of family planning services.

- The Government of Karnataka has set up VISION DOCUMENT for Mysore district for the period 2006 to 2021 under this programme, the National Population Policy 2000 identifies measures needed for empowering women for improved health and nutrition. It has set the following goals to be achieved by the Health Department by 2012.
  
  a) Infant mortality rate to be brought below 30 per thousand live births.

  b) Maternal mortality rate to be brought below 100 per 100,000 live births.
c) 80 percent institutional deliveries and 100 percent deliveries by trained personnel.

d) 100 percent Universal immunization of children against all Vaccine-preventable diseases.

e) Spread of AIDS to be controlled,

The present situation of Mysore district with regard to the indicators mentioned in the National Population Policy is much better than the national averages of these indicators. And this fact will prompt us to set still higher goals in the next 15 years and to make a plan to achieve them.

- Non-Government Organization (NGOs) are also playing a vital role in providing health services in the district. There are 17 such registered NGOs engaged in Health related activities in the district, village health day is celebrated every month to sensitize adolescent girls and children. Village health and sanitation committees are organized by them as well. The committees ensure participation of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the development of the villages as well

- Various programme and policies have been launched by the Government of Karnataka to alleviate poverty, generate employment opportunities, tend to provide infrastructure and basic facilities to meet the needs of the rural poor women. The important programmes are

  - **Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY):**
    The main objective of this programme is to lift the Below Poverty Line (BPL) family to above the poverty line by bringing about appreciable increase in income over a period of time. This programme lays emphasis on organizing the poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building.

    The SGSY provided for promotion of marketing of the goods produced by the women in their Self Help Groups, by organizing exhibition, melas at the Districts, State, National and International levels.
• **Self Employment Programme (SEP)**: Self Employment programmes such as the IRDP, TRYSEM and the DWACRA have been merged into a single composite programme called as the Swarna Jayanthi Grama Swarozgar Yojana. Under this programme, 20 percent of the funds were earmarked for training, 20 percent for infrastructure development and the remaining 60 percent utilized for economic activities with a thrust on group activities.

To tackle the problem of poverty, programmes have been formulated and implemented to assist the beneficiaries to acquire productive assets Self Employment Programmes like the Swarna Jayanthi Swarozgar Yojana are implemented in rural areas. Similar programmes have been initiated and implemented in urban areas. This programme has aimed at encouraging the unemployed women to take up Self-Employment by imposing lower rates of interest on loans, providing subsidies and long term financial assistance.

**Policies and Programmes to be implemented**

• Though the government has provided bicycle facilities to the girl children, yet some of the parents of the girl students fear to sent their daughters alone in bicycle to schools. Therefore Government has to reserve some buses with the help of KSRTC as school bus especially to the areas where there are no proper transportation facilities, so that the girl students can easily travel and can utilize the benefits of school facility.

• The Government has to conduct compulsory health camps in rural areas especially to take care of the health of female folk and children.

• The Government is providing loans to Sthree shakarti on lower interest rate which is known as “Soft Loans”, but it has to changed because they may use the loan amount for their personal unproductive activities. Thus the Government has to provide “Tied Aid” so that they can utilise it for productive purposes.
• Innovative and viable programmes to empower rural women can be suggested by taking inventory programmes that are already in force.

How Innovative this work is:

• This work has taken both socio economic variables such as health, education, income, employment opportunities, women participation in Sthree shakthi, and political activities etc. into consideration. This work is unique because it has focused on both social and economic variables. Where as some research work has concentrated on social or only on economic parameters.

• This study is unique since it analyses in detail the disparities in the socio economic development of women in all the seven taluks of Mysore district where as some of the studies are confined to only few taluks.

• This work is really innovative because it has made the taluk wise comparative analysis of the socio economic condition of women in Mysore district.

• It is innovative because it has made use of statistical tool like Pearson chi-square test to measure the socio-economic parameters and to prove the hypothesis.

Scope for Further Research:

• On the basis of this research work, the disparities between men and women relating to each socio-economic variable can be taken up for further researchers.

• This research work paves way further for research to make the detailed study of obstacles involved in effective implementation of Governmental programmes and policies towards women development.

• This research work helps for further studies by taking large samples in each taluks, and can also make the same study for one particular taluk in detail.
• A mathematical model can be framed to analyse the cost-benefit of different programmes launched by both Central and State Governments in this direction.

This chapter explains the policies that are already in force and at the same time it fulfills the fifth objective by suggesting suitable measures for the eradication of disparities between and among different regions of Mysore districts. It also explains the scope for further research. Meanwhile it highlights how this research work is innovative in nature.