Human Resource Development, now-a-days, has become a special subject of economic enquiry for achieving sustainable and equitable development in all third world countries in general and country like India in particular. It has become much more important particularly in the context of new economic environment where the skill and productivity of people have become crucial in promoting faster development. In one of its reports on 'Human Resource Development', The UNDP, reiterated that human resource development is the ultimate goal of development as well. Similarly, the New Educational Policy, 1986 of India also rightly mentioned that human being as a positive asset and a precious national resource which needs to be cherished, nurtured and developed with tenderness and care, coupled with dynamism. According to F. Harbison, human resource development is probably a more realistic and reliable indicator of the stage of modernization or growth than any other single measure, because it is a necessary condition for all kinds of growth, social, political, cultural and economic development. Therefore, the topic has been received the attention of Government and non-government agencies, economists, researchers including academicians across the globe.

Human Resource Development deals with creating conditions that enable people to get the best out of themselves and their lives. It is the process enabling people to make things happen through competence building. Competence building may simple, like learning the alphabets or complex, imparting world knowledge to people through training, awareness and exposure to various social, economical,
political, educational, health, environment, and bringing changes in attitudes, values
traditions and host of day-to-day affairs of human being for a healthy and happy
living. Indeed, these are all form the part of human resource development and is the
ultimate aim of human development.

Women, today, than earlier days, are representing nearly fifty per cent of our
population and substantially contributing for the welfare of the family and overall
development of the society. They are recognized as powerful change agents and
inputs for transformation of the society from ignorance to awakening and from
darkness to light. Besides, scores of studies have convincingly established that women
are more efficient converters of resources into productive purpose and household
development. In consideration of these, a programme titled ‘Development of Women
and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)” was launched by the Government in the
month of September, 1982 initially in 162 districts and later in all the districts in the
country by the end of Eighth plan.

Against this background, the present study has been undertaken titled
“Human Resource Development with special reference to DWCRA programme in
Kurnool District”. This district has been purposefully selected for the reason that this
is one of the backward districts of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh and
implementing this programme on successful lines. Hence, it is thought of to have an
in-depth and micro-level study evaluating to what extent this programme has made an
impact on various facets of human resource development as outlined in the above
paragraphs in Kurnool district. It is hoped that the findings of the study would help
the policy-makers of Government and Non-government agencies, financial
institutions, training institutions, researchers, academicians and all those who are concerned with the development of human resources in rural areas especially in backward districts like Kurnool.

The entire theme of the study is discussed and presented in six chapters.

Chapter I Discusses the concepts of human resource development and DWCRA programme in detail. An attempt is also made to present various facets of human resource development which are aimed to realize through DWCRA programme.

Chapter II Traces out the genesis and growth of DWCRA programme in India, Andhra Pradesh and also selected Kurnool district.

Chapter III Presents the statement of the problem, review of literature, objectives, need for the present study and other methodological aspects of the study.

Chapter IV Highlights a brief profile of the District and socio-economic background of the selected DWCRA group members.

Chapter V Analyses the impact of DWCRA programme on selected facets of human resource development in Kurnool district.

Chapter VI Summarises the findings and offers suggestions.