

Role and Needs of Hilly Women in Trades

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ABSTRACT

Rural women play a vital role in domestic and socio-economic life of the society and therefore, national development is not possible without developing this important and substantial section of our society. Women comprise half of the work force in agriculture especially in developing countries. In India according to 2001 census, female population is 48.27 per cent, out of which 72.72 per cent come from rural areas. The department of rural development, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India formulated a scheme Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (D.W.C.R.A.) as a sub scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme to provide income generating activities to rural women, which will have a positive impact on the economic and multi-nutritional status of the family and also to attempt to provide an organization support in terms of receiving system for the assisted women. The 135 functional women groups were formed out 1350 individual women beneficiaries covered, it is observed that, out of 135 functional women groups, 35 (25.93) sold their products direct to the consumers, 45 (33.33) to whole sale shopkeepers and 55 (40.74) women groups to retail shopkeepers almost equally number divided to the direct to consumers, wholesales shopkeeper and retail of soil.

Women constitute half of the population and 48 per cent of the rural population. They share the abundant responsibility of production and social process of the economic. Although with the fast changing pattern as development in the social-economic structure of society, the gap between the status of men and women is narrowing down, yet there is a lot to be filled and achieved. As economic development is unimaginable without improving the women status and position. Involving women in the development process require strategies that recognize the multiple roles of women and take into consideration the cultural context that shape women's lives.

The Government has been emphasizing the need for development of rural women and their involvement in the development activities. The high rate of illiteracy and low economic status as rural women stress the need for greater attention to their economic emancipation. The provision of opportunities of independent employment and income to such women boost their social status. Constant efforts are being made by the Government to include

women, particularly households headed by women below the poverty line under various schemes like T.R.Y.S.E.M, I.E.C.C.B.C.S., and D.W.C.R.A. etc.

The department of rural development, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India formulated a scheme Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (D.W.C.R.A.) as a sub scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme to provide income generating activities to rural women which will have a positive impact on the economic and multi-nutritional status of the family and also to attempt to provide an organizing support in terms of receiving system for the assisted women so that they may become affective recipients of goods and services available in the area.

Keeping in this view, present study entitled "Role and Need of Hilly women in Trades" made to seek role, need and feed-back of D.W.C.R.A. in kullu district with special objective as below:-

1) To study the role and need of women groups in D.W.C.R.A Progress.

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2) To study the co-operation extended by the financial institution to the women groups.

The survey of D.W.C.R.A. were conducted in all the 5 blocks of Kullu district. There were in all 195 women groups formed, Out of this, 60 women group were defunct. Thus 135 women groups were functioned.

State- H.P. Distt. Kullu

Block	Kullu Sadar	Naggar	Banjar	Ani	Nirmand
Village	22	22	24	22	27
Women Member	280	280	270	260	260
D.W.C.R.A. Groups	28	28	27	26	26

A list of all the functional women groups with the year of formation was collected from the D.W.C.R.A., Kullu. The list was block-wise which also specified the type of different trades for each women group. The information so collected was consolidated under the classification of trades. The number of groups were further classified block-wise and trade-wise so as to given representation in the selected to blocks as well as to trade. All the trades were classified under fourteen heads after combining all such trade which have just one or two groups and combining some identical trade like Dairy with other similar articles like sheep rearing. A sample of 10 women in each functional groups, in Kullu district was taken at random. Thus out of 135 functinal groups, 1350 women were finally selected for the study. The block- wise and occupation-wise distribution of the selected women group is depicted in Table-1 given below:-

Table-1

It can be seen from the above table that Dairying, weaving spinning and vegetable trades put together account for 55.85 per cent of the total groups, whereas dairying and vegetable were all pervasive in terms of its special acceptance all over the district, the same were not true of the other trades. All other activities do not exhibit a typical special distribution as could be related to row material endowment but cops, socks, purle and chattai groups appeared to have significant location as to back up support or the captive market availability. Table 2

The above table reveals that 135 functional women groups were formed and 1350 individual women beneficiaries covered, since the inception, 50 women groups were organized and 500 individual beneficiaries covered in the all development blocks of the Kullu district.

The maximum 50 women group covering 500 individual beneficiaries and minimum 12 women groups covering 120 individual beneficiaries were formed during the 1st years and 5th year respectively in the district. The progress in respect of year to year organization of women groups and governing individual beneficiaries have been remarkable.

Functional and Defunct Groups

The successful functioning of women groups depends upon the viability of economic unit, adequacy of funds, infrastructure and marketing facilities etc. The block-wise functinal and definer group in Kullu district is given in Table 3 below:-

Table 3

The above table shows that in all 195 women groups were formed in all the give blocks of Kullu district. Since the nception of the programme upto 5th years. Out of which 60 women groups were defunct. The reason for non-functioning of these women groups are as under:-

- 1) Non-disbursement of revolving funds.
- 2) Inadequacy of Infrastructure and two materials.
- 3) Price escalation of row material.
- 4) Low market price of the product.
- 5) Technical marketing problems.
- 6) Technical marketing problems.
- 7) Non-repayment by the group member.
- 8) Non-cooperation among the group members.

Hereditary and New Trades

All viable economic activities are possible to be under taken in D.W.C.R.A. programme. The economic activities are identified by the group suitable aided by the Grann Sewika, Mukhya Sewika and Assistant Project Officer (Women). The backward and forward linkages are kept in view while selecting the economic activities. The block-wise number of women group forward as tradinally/hereditary and new trade have been shown in table No. 4.

Table 4.

It is observed from the above table that out of 135 total number of functional women groups, 116 women groups were formed from traditional/hereditary trades and 19 women groups from New Trades. Thus, 85.93 per cent women groups referred to adopt the hereditary trades

Table 2: Year-wise number of functional women groups and Individual

S.No.	Year	Name of functional women groups formed	Number of individual beneficiaries covered	Revolving fund provided to the women groups
1	Ist Year	50	500	750000
2	2nd Year	30	300	450000
3	3rd Year	30	300	450000
4	5th Year	13	130	325000
5	5th Year	12	120	300000
Total		135	1350	22,75,000/00

Table 3 Status of functional and defunct groups.

S.No.	Name of the block	Total No. of women group formed	No. and Percentage of women Groups	
			Functional	Defunct
01.	Kullu Sadar	39	28 (71.79)	11 (28.21)
02.	Naggar	39	28 (71.79)	11 (28.21)
03.	Sanjar	39	27 (69.23)	12 (30.33)
04.	Ani	39	26 (66.67)	13 (33.33)
05.	Nirmand	39	26 (66.67)	13 (33.33)

Table 4. Traditional/Hereditary and New trades

S.No.	Name of the block	Total No. of functional women groups	No. and Percentage of women Groups formed	
			Functional/Hereditary	Defunct
01.	Kullu Sadar	28	24 (85.72)	4 (14.28)
02.	Naggar	28	25 (89.28)	3 (10.72)
03.	Sanjar	27	24 (88.88)	3 (11.12)
04.	Ani	26	20 (76.92)	6 (23.08)
05.	Nirmad	26	23 (88.46)	3 (11.54)
		135	116 (85.63)	19 (14.07)

Table 5. Marketing and Marketing linkage of Products.

Sl.No	Name of the block	Total No.of functional women groups	No. and percentage of women Groups sold their products				
			Direct to Consumer of Khadi	Whole sale shop keeper Board any	Retail Shop keeper	Cooperative society	Emporia Govt./ Semi-Govt
01.	Kullu Sadar	28	6 (21.42)	11 (39.29)	1139.29)	-	-

02.	Naggar	28	5 (17.87)	13 (46.42)	10 (35.7)	-	-
03.	Sanjar	27	7 (25.93)	8 (29.63)	12 (44.44)	-	-
04.	Ani	26	13 (50.00)	5 (19.24)	8 (30.76)	-	-
05.	Nirmand	26	4 (15.38)	8 (30.76)	14 (53.86)	-	-
		135	35 (25.93)	45 (33.33)	55 (40.74)		

CONCLUSION

On the basis of above results it is concluded that - Adequate infrastructural facilities should be provided so that the work is continued in all the seasons, the Government should ensure adequate provisions of raw material at reasonable prices, adequate marketing facilities should be developed, in order to provide remunerative prices of the finished products, marketing and purchase committees should be constituted, in order to handle the economic assets properly adequate provision of training facilities should be made available, individual members should be made aware of the utilization of revolving funds properly, viable alternative economic assets/activities

should be provided, so that the income generation of the beneficiaries is enhanced and their lean season utilized in full.

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