

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

**ROLE OF GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR
THE UPLIFMENT OF WOMEN IN SRINAGAR**

Prof. Naheed Vaida, Dr. Humaira Azim and Sabeena Yasmeen

Volume No.4 Issue No.1 March 2015

www.iresearcher.org

ISSN 2227-7471

THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL "INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS"

www.iresearcher.org

© 2015 (individual papers), the author(s)

© 2015 (selection and editorial matter)

This publication is subject to that author (s) is (are) responsible for Plagiarism, the accuracy of citations, quotations, diagrams, tables and maps.

All rights reserved. Apart from fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the applicable copyright legislation, no part of this work may be reproduced by any process without written permission from the publisher. For permissions and other inquiries, please contact

editor@iresearcher.org

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS is peer-reviewed, supported by rigorous processes of criterion-referenced article ranking and qualitative commentary, ensuring that only intellectual work of the greatest substance and highest significance is published.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS is indexed in wellknown indexing diectories



with ICV value 5.90



Directory of Research Journals Indexing

and monitor by



ROLE OF GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR THE UPLIFMENT OF WOMEN IN SRINAGAR

Prof. Naheed Vaida¹, Dr. Humaira Azim and Sabeena Yasmeen

¹Institute of Home Science University of Kashmir, J&K,

(INDIA)

E-mail: shahrufedah@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken with the objective of ascertaining the role and efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Women Development Corporation and Social Welfare Department for the upliftment of women. The study highlighted that ICDS provides all necessary facilities to the women and children. Supplementary nutrition is provided to pregnant and lactating women. Jammu and Kashmir Women Development Corporation is involved in upliftment of women for attaining social and economic independence in our state. The corporation has a mission to provide skill development, training, soft loan/ micro credit and permanent market support to women entrepreneurs.

It is concluded that both organizations are playing an important role for in-depth development and welfare of women both economically as well as socially.

Keywords: Government organizations, Social Welfare Department, Jammu and Kashmir Women Development Corporation, Women Welfare, Skill Development.

1. INTRODUCTION

Census of India (2011), estimates that 30 million women are economically engaged in unorganized sector. Women do more work than men do, yet they have only limited access to economic resources and benefits. The point is made clearer with the following observations:

“Women constitute half of the world’s population, Perform nearly two-third of its work hours, Receive one-tenth of world income and own, Less than one hundredth of world’s property”

Such is the scale of ‘gender gaps’ in the distribution of work, resources and benefits (Nandal, 2012).

Traditionally, women have been under-represented in organizations and the argument for equal opportunity to employment has not produced sufficient results in India. Women continue to play a marginal and peripheral role in the overall national context despite constituting almost half the population with a critical role in production and social processes. The educated women do not want to limit their lives in the four walls of the house. They demand equal respect from their partners. By the efforts taken by Government for uplifting the lives of women many reforms have been taken so far in their status and growth of self employment. They are becoming innovators and entrepreneurs (Chintu and Mishra, 2012).

With the advance of time technical and scientific developments much social changes have been brought about in the status of women. The development of women is the reality of 21st century. Today the role of women has become vital and is the key in the process of development. The participation of women in education, economy, social life, employment as well in politics began to increase day-by-day. The constitution of India not only grants equality to

women but also empowers the state to adopt measures, frame policies, plans and programmes aimed at women's advancement in the different spheres (Nandal, 2012).

Women are economic actors in two spheres, namely the hidden and invisible 'economy of care' in the household and the community referred as 'Reproductive Role' and the visible economic roles referred as 'Productive Roles' (Lanita, 1990).

In our country during the decade of 1960's the issue was for the welfare of the women. In 1970's there was shift from the welfare to development of women. In 1980's and onwards the shift took place from the development to empowerment of women. For the development of women and to provide those opportunities that result in mainstreaming, a number of schemes are being implemented at the state and central level by the government. A number of NGOs are also coming forward. There is a separate department for women and child development at national level. At state level also government has set up departments for welfare and upliftment of women namely Social Welfare Department and Women Development Corporation. The department of social welfare administers/ implements central and state government schemes in the areas of women consisting of two sectors:-

1. Social welfare
2. Child development (Integrated Child Development services) (Mir, 2010).

Besides social welfare department one more government organization namely JKWDC is also involved in upliftment/ betterment of women for attaining social and economic independence in our state. The corporation has a mission to provide skill development, training, soft loan/ micro credit and permanent market support.

Since insufficient information is available regarding the role and impact of government organizations in the upliftment of status of women in our valley, the present study has been undertaken with following objectives:-

- To ascertain the role and efforts made by government organization for upliftment of women.
- To know the type of services / schemes provided by these organizations.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Koul (1986) assessed the status of social welfare department in three districts of Badgam. She observed that the status of 48% of respondents had risen after joining social welfare centers, meaning thereby that social welfare department has been successful to a great extent in raising the status of women in district Badgam. An interesting feature which was highlighted was that approximately half of the respondents were not satisfied with their positions in the society after joining social welfare department.

Rafiqi (1997) assessed the status of social welfare department in two tehsils of district Srinagar. She observed that every year SWD provides training to 225 ladies in cutting, tailoring and embroidery. The department provides grants for sewing machines, social welfare centers and grants-in-aids to ladies vocational centers. It shows that SWD provides technical training so that they become self reliant. The department was not providing any medical and recreational facility to the trainees. Incentives given to the trainees were very low. They had to spend the sum on material and examination fee. The trainees had to face many problems in the center like inadequate space, improper furniture and furnishing, lack of heating, below average teaching staff, improper conditions of machines and insufficient training period.

Kounser (2000) while assessing "Efficacy of J & K State Women's Development Corporation LTD" reports that almost all of the beneficiaries complained that the corporation was not coming to their rescue to a significant extent. The loans provided are so meager to suffice the basic requirements of any income generating unit. A large number of respondents amongst women folk (comprising about 90%) expressed their ignorance about the existence of corporation and its activities. Though they were of the opinion that the women folk in the valley are much down trodden and need all possible help for their upliftment, but they had no knowledge about the creation of this corporation and about the schemes, which are in force for the upliftment of the women. This states a sad commentary on the part of the corporation because the corporation has done nothing for publicizing its schemes and its objectives.

Dijoo (2003) revealed that the trainees firmly believe that the government is maximizing welfare services to the women folk. These include women's welfare institutions for the care and protection of destitute and deserted women and widow homes for rescued women. The attitude of women towards department is very much positive because the department acts as a backbone for their development not only financially but also in all phases of development.

Nayyar, et al. (2007) revealed that women entrepreneurs faced constraints in respect of finances, marketing, production, work place facility and health problems. Financial problems faced were non-availability of long term finance, regular and frequent need of working capital, poor location of shop and lack of transport facility were major marketing problems. Production problems included the problem of non-availability of raw material. Entrepreneurs of zone-4 mainly faced health problems such as fatigue, tension and headache. Women entrepreneurs also faced problem of improper water and space facility. Guidelines framed as a solution to these problems can help women entrepreneurs to deal with these problems effectively.

Thamaraiselvi (2012) reported that empowering women entrepreneurs is essential for achieving the goals of sustainable development and the bottlenecks hindering their growth must be eradicated to entitle full participation in the business. Apart from training programs, newsletters, mentoring, trade fairs and exhibitions also can be a source for entrepreneurial development. As a result, the desired outcomes of the business are quickly achieved and more of remunerative business opportunities are found. Henceforth, promoting, entrepreneurship among women is certainly a short-cut to rapid economic growth and development. Let us try to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination and thus allow 'women' to be an entrepreneur at par with men.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The information was collected from JKWDC training centers at Lal Bazar, Hawal, Noorbagh and ICDS centers of SWD at Zadibal and Soura through questionnaire cum interview schedule. The collected data was carefully scrutinized and condensed into a master chart, so that all information could be brought into proximity. The data was tabulated and presented with the help of tables. Various tools like mean, percentages were used to facilitate analysis and interpretation in order to achieve the desired objectives.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study to assess the role of government organizations working for the upliftment of women was carried out in district Srinagar. After analyzing the data it was observed that both organizations are doing a commendable job for uplifting women economically as well as socially. These organizations have the mission to empower women and raise the status of women community in general and destitute women, widow and disabled in particular.

Both the organizations give due publicity to create awareness among the masses regarding their schemes. Jammu and Kashmir Women Development Corporation (JKWDC) provides training in jute bag making, crewel, sozni and Social Welfare Department (SWD) provides training only in cutting and tailoring. The department provides scholarship to the students of 1st – 10th standard through government as well as private schools.

Jammu and Kashmir Women Development Corporation identifies their target group through field survey before providing financial assistance for establishing their units. While as Social Welfare Department find their target group on production by beneficiaries regarding income and other documents issued from revenue authorities. Under the social welfare department, ICDS is the scheme for women and children which help to raise their status besides providing proper health care facilities.

After collecting information from the organizations (JKWDC, SWD), twenty-five beneficiaries from Hawal, Noorbagh, Lal Bazar centers of JKWDC and twenty-five beneficiaries from ICDS Zadibal, Soura were contacted and surveyed.

The data from samples was analyzed from different aspects and results observed are as under:

Fig 1: Age of the respondents

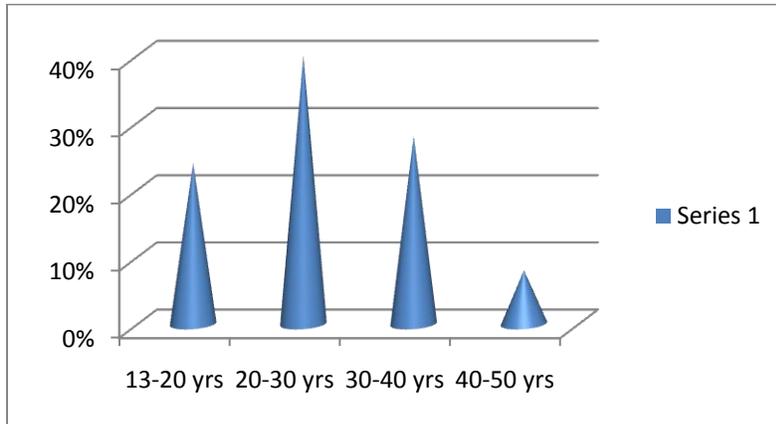


Figure 1 reveals that majority (40%) of the respondents were in the age group of 20-30 years. Very few (8%) were in the age range of 40-50 years.

Fig 2: Occupation of the respondents

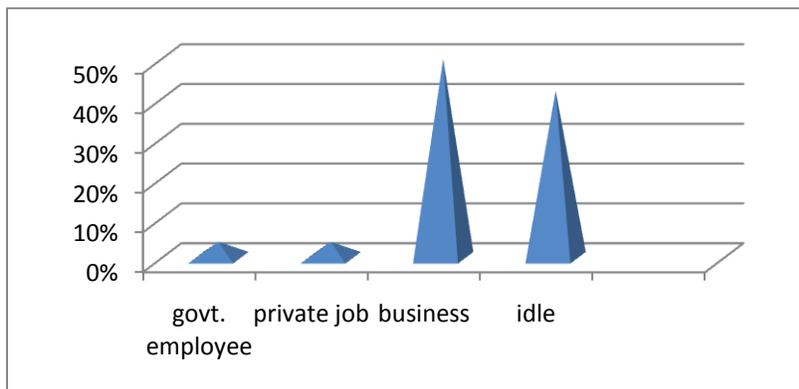


Figure 2 reveals that half (50%) of the women came from business class.

Fig 3. Educational status of the respondents

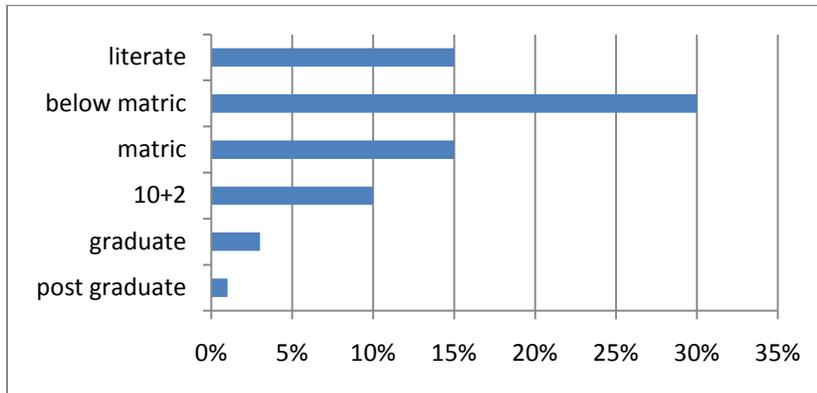


Figure 3 depicts the educational status of respondents, it reveals that thirty percent of respondents were below matric. There was only one respondent who was a Post Graduate and three of them were Graduates.

Table 1: Personal income of the respondents

Monthly Income (in Rs)	No. of respondents	Percentage
Nil	71	42%
500-5000	24	48%
5000-10000	1	2%
10000-15000	4	8%
Total	100	100%

The above table reveals the personal income of the respondents. It can be seen that less than half (48%) of the respondents had a personal income between Rs. 500-5000. Remaining 42% respondents were idle with no income which included students and housewives.

Information collected in JKWDC is depicted in the following tables and figure:

Table 2: Effects of training programme on household activities

Response	No.	Percentage
Yes	3	12%
No	22	88%
Total	25	100%

Table 2 reveals that max. (88%) of women feel that attending training programmes did not have any effect on their household activities.

Fig 4 Rate of interest on loan

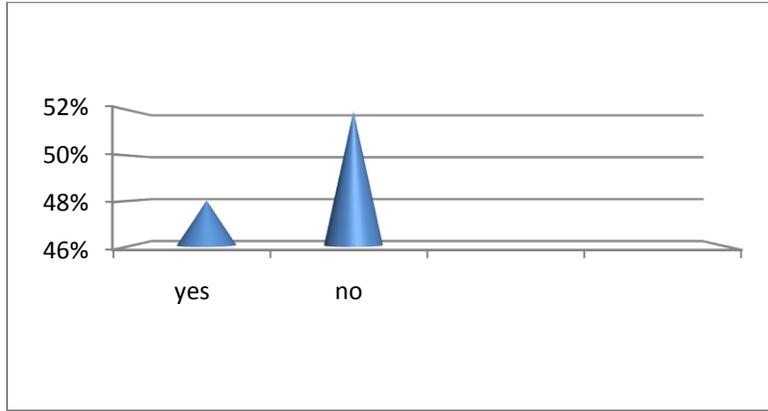
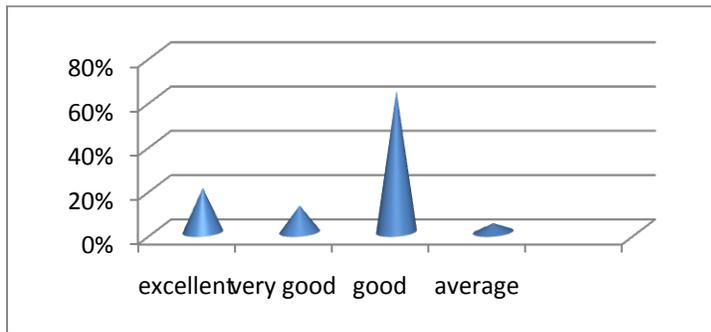


Figure 4 depicts that more than half of the respondents (52%) believed that interest rate imposed on loan are not women friendly and desired that loans provided to women should be at lower interest rates

Fig 5 Performance of corporation

With respect to the performance of corporation 64% of the beneficiaries revealed that corporation was performing well in uplifting women. However as there is always scope for improvement various steps needs to be taken for improvement in functioning of corporation in several ways.

Information collected in SWD (ICDS) is depicted in the following tables and figure:

Table 3 Frequency of visits

Frequency of visits	No.	Percentage
Daily	23	92%
Once a week	2	8%
Occasionally	-	-
Frequently	-	-
Total	25	100%

Table 3 reveals that a huge majority (92%) of the respondents visited ICDS center daily. Only 8% made a visit to ICDS once a week who were pregnant or lactating mothers.

Table 4 Vocational training provided at the centre

Response	No	%age
Yes	6	24%
No	19	76%
Total	25	100%

Table 4 reveals that the majority (76%) of the respondents did not receive any kind of vocational training at the center. While as 24% were fortunate to receive vocational training like cutting, tailoring and knitting from the AWC.

Table 5 Services at the center

Response	No	%age
Excellent	10	40%
Good	14	56%
Average	1	4%
Total	25	100%

Table 5 reveals that a huge majority (96%) of the respondents were satisfied with the services provided at AWC as 56% of them rated the ICDS services as good and another 40% as excellent.

It was further revealed by majority of the beneficiaries that although the current health care system of ICDS is satisfactory but they want further improvement in it.

Table 6 Supplementation received at the centre

Supplementation	No	%age
Vit-A tablet	5	20%
IFA tablet	6	24%
Any other	14	56%
Total	25	100%

Table 6 depicts that more than half (56%) of the respondents received First-aid medicine from the centre. While as other necessary supplementation like IRON FOLIC ACID (IFA), VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY TABLET which is to be provided to beneficiaries through ICDS is not available in these centers. The ICDS officers in Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and other concerned need to be approached so that proper quantity and quality of supplies is kept available in these centers.

5. DISCUSSION

The observation in the present study are quite encouraging than the observations made by Kounser (2000), earlier while studying "Efficacy of JKWDC LTD", where she reports that corporation does not come to the rescue of beneficiaries to a significant extent, a meager insufficient loan is being provided. Mostly the women showed ignorance about existence/ working of organization. She further states that the corporation lacked publicity to make people aware of various schemes and very few schemes were implemented, many centers existed on papers only for receiving monetary benefits without benefitting the deserved.

In contrast to it the observations in the present study are quite reverse. Now a day's people are aware of corporation as it is publishing regular bulletins. Women get benefits from the corporation like training, financial assistance or getting raw materials for opening SHGs/ units to create self empowerment among women.

With respect to the role of social welfare department in uplifting women, Koul (1986) reports that status of women had raised after joining SWD centers indicating that department has been successful to a great extent in raising the status of women. An interesting feature highlighted in her study was that these women whose status improved were still not satisfied with their positions.

Study made by Rafiqi (1997) in two tehsils of district Srinagar indicated that every year SWD provides training to 225 ladies in cutting tailoring, embroidery and provided grants for sewing machines and grant-in-aid to ladies vocational centers so as to become self reliant. She reported that 87% respondents had initial monthly income of Rs nil to 100/- per month and only 13% had Rs. 100 to 900/- per month. Her research depicted that the department was not providing recreational and medical facilities. The trainees had to face many problems in the centers like

inadequate space, improper furniture and furnishing, teaching staff, insufficient training period etc. but now the department has been extended, many new social welfare centers have been opened. ICDS are one of the components in this department and in it women and children get benefitted as has been observed in the present study.

Study made by Dijoo (2003) depicts that the trainees firmly believe that the government is maximizing welfare services to the women folk; these include women welfare institutions for the care and protection of destitute and deserted women, widow homes for rescued women. She further states that attitude of women towards department is very much positive and it acts as a backbone for their development not only financially but also in all phases of development which is quite similar to the observation made in present study. Now a days it also provides training in cutting and tailoring. The department provides scholarship to the students of 1st-10th standard through government as well as private schools. Under this department, ICDS is the scheme for women and children which helps to raise their status besides providing proper health care facilities. The women community has positive expectation from department in improving their social and economic status.

6. CONCLUSION

After analyzing data, it is concluded that the JKWDC and SWD are doing tremendous job for the upliftment of women economically as well as socially. Besides, it is also concluded that the ICDS is providing all the facilities/ services to the women and children. Supplementary nutrition is provided to pregnant and lactating women. Both organizations are playing an important role for in-depth development and welfare of women.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The centers should provide vitamins and mineral supplementation in proper quantity (Iron Folic Acid and vitamin tablet etc.). Immunization facilities must be kept at the centers. More and more audio-visual aids should be used to teach the beneficiaries as it is easier to understand and have long lasting impact on the beneficiaries.

The concerned authorities should have regular periodic surprise inspections of the centers to know the performance of the staff and also to inspect whether the objectives of the centers are being met or not.

There should be a hike in financial assistance being provided to the beneficiaries. If possible interest free financial assistance should be provided or the interest rates be minimized.

Raw material that is provided during training should also be provided after training. Sub-offices should be established so as to ensure proper supervision and easily available supplies. Proper funding should be made available so as to ensure timely salaries, supplies, quality food items etc.

Basic education should be provided to illiterate beneficiaries at the centre. Fresh technologies should be adopted in these activities/ services.

REFERENCES

- Chintu, A.K & Mishra, S. (2012). Women Entrepreneurship in India- Problems and Policies, *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Business Environment Perspective*, 1(1), 1-10.
- Dijoo, A. (2003). Role of Social Welfare Department in the Development of Women, Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir, 1-60.
- Koul, S. (1986). The Role of Social Welfare Department in Raising Status of Women in District Badgam, Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir, 50-60.
- Kaunser, N. (2000). Efficacy of J & K state Women's Development Corporation. Ltd., Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir, 55-60.
- Lanita, C. (1990). Women's Link, 1(4), 3-20.
- Mir, F.A. (2010). Legal Protection of Geographical Indications in Jammu & Kashmir- A Case Study of Kashmiri Handicrafts. www.famir.fain-journalofintellectualpropertyrights.2010-manupatra.co.in
- Nandal, S. (2012). Women & Development Krishna Mittal, New Delhi, 100-240.
- Nayyar, P. Sharma, A. Kishtwaria, J. Rana, A. & Vyas, N. (2007). Causes & Constraints Faced by Women Entrepreneurs in Entrepreneurial Process, *Journal of social Science*, 14(2), 99-102.
- Rafiqi, F.A. (1997). Role of Social Welfare Department in Raising the Economic Status of Women in District Srinagar, Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir, 1-50.
- Thamaraiselvi, R. (2012). Women as Entrepreneurs in India, Regal Publication, *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Business Environment Perspective*, 1(1), 1-5.