

Unit 4

The Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) was launched by the Government of India during 1978 and implemented during 1980. The aim of the program is to provide employment opportunities to the poor as well as opportunities to develop their skill sets so as to improve their living conditions.

IRDP is described officially as a major mechanism for the alleviation of rural poverty. The main objective of IRDP is to raise families of identified target group below poverty line by creation of sustainable opportunities for self-employment in the rural sector.

Assistance is given in the form of subsidy by the government and term credit advanced by financial institutions (commercial banks, cooperatives and regional rural banks.) The programme is implemented in all blocks of the country as centrally sponsored scheme funded on 50:50 basis by the centre and the states.

The target group under IRDP consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans having annual income below Rs. 11,000 defined as poverty line in the Eighth Plan. In order to ensure that benefits under the programme reach the more vulnerable sectors of the society, it is stipulated that at least 50 per cent of assisted families should be from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes with corresponding flow of resources to them.

Furthermore, 40 per cent of the coverage should be of women beneficiaries and 3 per cent of handicapped persons.

Trysem was launched in 1979 as a separate national scheme for training rural youth for self employment. The compelling reasons for launching the programme being the huge backlog of unemployment and under employment among the rural youth. Forty youth, both men and women were to be selected in each block and trained in both skill development and entrepreneurship to enable them to become self-employed.

It was generating activities in the rural areas, the influx of rural youth to urban areas could be curbed. Moreover, local needs could also be met with local resources, thereby giving a fillip to rural development.

Objectives of TRYSEM

- To provide rural youth (18-35 years) from families below the poverty line with training and technical skills to enable them to take up self-employment in agriculture, industry, services and business activities.
- Training is perceived not only in terms of provision of physical skills. But also change in attitude, enhancement of motivation and skills in human relations etc., are also ought to be imparted.

- Self-employment is defined as gainful employment on a full time basis which results in income which is sufficient for the family of the youth cross the poverty line. Situation of employment in which the means of production are owned, hired or taken on lease are taken to be self-employment situations.

Features of TRYSEM

- TRYSEM became the “self employment for youth” component of IRDP and was introduced in all the 5000 blocks in the country.
- An identified youth will be put through a period of training either in a training institution or under a master crafts men.
- Duration of training is flexible depending upon types of courses.
- Trainers are given stipend and a tool kit.
- Successful trainee is eligible to receive a subsidiary/credit/income generating asset under IRDP.
- At least 50 percent of the youth to be trained for self-employment either for secondary or tertiary sector activity.
- Wage employment training was to be in the secondary and tertiary sectors.
- BDO selects the eligible youth belonging to the target group with the help of VLW’s.
- The identification of locations is done by the DRDA in consultation with district level officers of different departments.
- DRDA prepares a resource inventory for training facilities like ITI’s polytechniques, KVI’s, KVK’s, NYK’s etc.,
- DRDA is responsible for the implementation of TRYSEM.

Beneficiaries of TRYSEM

- Members of the poorest family first
- Priority should be given to members of SC’s and ST’s.
- At least 1/ 3 of candidates should be women.
- Preference should be given to persons who have completed the 12 month course under the national Adult Education programme.

Short coming of TRYSEM

- Implementation is generally uneven.
- Training lacked appropriate technology in the package provided.
- In the selection of trade, self-employment opportunities and financial viability were not adequately assessed.
- Assistance in the provision of raw materials and marketing has been lacking.

- Every district did not have training centers of TRYSEM.
- In a large number of cases, the assistance provided to TRYSEM trainees from IRDP projects had no link to the training they had received.

DWCRA:

What does DWCRA mean? Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is one of the sub-scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) introduced in 1982 at district level.

The basic objective of DWCRA is to provide rural women with productive income-generating assets and credit, and enhance their skills.

The target group of DWCRA is the same as under IRDP, i.e. families which have an annual income of less than Rs. 4,800.

However, the basic difference with IRDP lies in the fact that under DWCRA, it is not individual families which receive assistance but the group. The DWCRA scheme envisages the formation million of groups each consisting of 15-20 women; it is expected that the women will come together for activities which are mutually beneficial.

The financial assistance which is available for a group is as follows:

- (a) Rs. 15,000 in the form of a one-time grant contributed in equal measure by the Government of India, State Government and UNICEF which may be used as:
 - (i) Working capital to procure raw materials and for marketing purposes.
 - (ii) Honorarium to group organizer which is not to exceed Rs. 50 per month for a period of one year.

(iii) Infrastructural support for income generating activities.

(iv) Childcare facilities

(b) Travelling allowance at the rate of Rs. 2,000 per year for one year for the group organizers.

DWCRA was launched in 1982-83 as a pilot project in 50 districts chosen on the criteria of high Infant mortality rate and low female literacy. There has been a phased expansion since then and in 1989-90. DWCRA was being implemented in 106 districts.

Although DWCRA is basically a programme to generate productive assets, it is not confined to provide economic benefits; it includes supportive services like mother and child care, adult education, immunization etc. To this end, co-ordination is maintained with various other departments, such as education, health and family welfare and women and child development.

Administrative and Organisational Aspect of DWCRA:

DWCRA has an administrative structure for carrying out operations relating to the programme. At the state level, a woman of the rank of Deputy Secretary' to the state government is in charge of the programme. At the District level, a woman officer may be appointed as Assistant Project Officer (APO) women's Development, to assist the project officer of the District Rural Development Agency (DFU3A).

At the block level, under the community development pattern, the norm is to provide a team comprising one woman BDO, two women VLWs and one Gram Sevika per DWCRA Block. It is to be ensured that the project officer of DRDA remains the coordinating officer at district level and the BDO at the Block level.

The task of planning, implementing and monitoring of DWCRA has been entrusted to DRDA, as DWCRA is a part of IRDP. The staff provided for DWCRA, the Asst. Project Officer, the BDO and the village level women workers are expected to spend adequate time with the target group.

They must explain to the women, the nature and purpose of the group, help women to analyze their situation so that solutions can be considered, give ideas, information and assistance regarding possible income generating activities which the group can undertake, and provide encouragement, guidance and support.

Funding Support System for DWCRA:

The main financial assistance is provided by the Central Government. The Central Government releases the central share of Rs. 5,000 per group and travelling allowance for the group organizers directly to the DRDAs. It also releases the share of UNICEF equivalent to Rs. 5,000.

Equipment and input costs subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per centre and cost of staff are also provided. The state Governments in turn releases their share towards grant to groups, and travelling allowance for group organizers.

The groups utilise the grants for various purposes. They use it to build up infrastructural support and marketing facilities, purchase of raw materials etc. The grant by UNICEF issued to purchase training kits, equipment for childcare facilities etc. If no other childcare programme is available, some childcare facilities could be provided so that children are not neglected when their mothers go to work.

If the groups under DWCRA are registered under Registration of Societies Act 1860; they can avail bank loans. The programme also envisages construction of a multi-purpose centre in each block where DWCRA is being implemented where women can come for training and economic activities.

Training under DWCRA:

The basic and fundamental concern of DWCRA is to improve the socio-economic conditions of women and children in rural areas. It is important to train women so that they are able to make better use of the skills acquired to enhance their productivity. Under DWCRA training is provided by various agencies at different levels.

The organizer of each group helps the women to derive maximum benefits from the training. Training includes tailoring, knitting, bamboo basket making, fishing, poultry, pottery, soap making, candle making etc. Training of officials and trainers who would, in turn, train the women in the group, is carried out by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad.

To evaluate and assess the functioning of a special programme like DWCRA, it is important to review its broad objectives. These include increase in women's participation in rural development and ii rise in their earnings; helping women to develop new skills; providing them with better access to credit; and helping in the marketing of their products.

DWCRA suffers from some basic deficiencies and problems which act as constraints in the functioning of the programme. These include shortage of functionaries at every level, lack of infrastructural facilities and credit, problems in the selection of projects, lack of clarity regarding the role of the groups, and low motivation of the members of the groups.

Through DWCRA, the poorest of the poor among the women do not derive the greatest benefits. It is usually the less poor among the poor women who get to form the groups.

1. DWCRA is a component of IRDP.
2. It is designed exclusively for rural women below the poverty line to provide them with income generating activities.
3. Assistance is provided to groups of women (15-20 women) instead of an individual woman.
4. Supportive services like mother and childcare, adult education, immunization etc. are provided.
5. Training facilities are extended.
6. The group plays an important role in DWCRA for organising and motivating women, apprising them of their problems and helping them at analysing the causes of their present situation. It also identifies vocations for them and provides access to training facilities.

Role of DWCRA in Empowering Rural Women:

The empowerment of women became necessary as they are almost fifty percent of the population and are being discriminated at all fronts. Women play a vital role in the social and economic transformation of a country.

Policies and programmes to improve the conditions of women's lives are being implemented by governments in various countries. The most common interventions are those intended to increase women's income to provide women with the means to control their own family and to increase levels of human capital investments in females, so that the next generation of women will be better equipped to contribute to the well being of their families and the nation.

The DWCRA scheme which was started in 1983 is now in operation in 450 districts of the country with UNICEF assistance. During 1994-95, over 19000 groups, with 3.19 lakh women contingent were formed. Further since its inception in 1987, the Support to Training and Employment Programme for women (STEP) benefited more than 2.50 lakh women.

The programme seeks to train women for employment in the traditional sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, handlooms and handicrafts. The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) was set up in 1993 to meet the credit needs of poor women particularly in the un-organised sector.

The self-employment programme of IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, Ganga Kalyana Yojana (GKY) and Million Well Scheme (MWS) were all merged into a single self-employment programme called the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) with effect from April, 1999.

Jawahar rozgar program was initiated by April 1, 1989, by merging national rural employment program and rural landless employment guarantee programme. So, it was the amalgamation of the previous employment programs, and it was the most extensive federal employment program of India at that time with the general objective of giving 90-100 days employment per person specifically in backward districts. Mainly, people below the poverty line were the main targets. The Yojana was launched on rural scales. Every village was to be concealed through Panchayati raj institutions. The town got support from district rural development authority. Expenditures were created by central and state in 80:20 ratios.

The target group combines persons living below the poverty line.

- Preference is given to SC and ST among the poor.
- 30% of the beneficiaries are women.
- All works which result in the creation of durable community assets can be taken up.
- Wages under JRY could be paid in the form of cash or food grain.
- High priority is given to work which is needed as a framework under poverty alleviation programs.
- For social forestry works, the participation of NGOs is desirable. To generate more employment opportunities for unemployed rural youth.
- To upgrade the overall quality of life
- To build productive community assets that would benefit the deprived sections, thus, strengthening the rural infrastructure.