



5

RESEARCH AND STUDIES CELL

Under Section 10(1) (h) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, the Commission is required to undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement. In this regard, the Commission has promoted several seminars, public hearings, workshops and research studies in order to obtain relevant inputs on subjects considered of highest priority on issues related to gender equality and empowerment.

During the year 2008-09, the National Commission for Women approved programmes on various subjects related to awareness generation on women related problems and protection of their rights. Particular emphasis was given to generate awareness on women related issues in the backward and underdeveloped rural areas where most of the people are illiterate and traditional. A total of 12 awareness programmes, 227 legal awareness programmes were organized. 3 public hearings were also organized at block and district level and 13 Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat were organized. Apart from this, 17 national, regional level and state level conference, seminars and workshops were organized to increase awareness and to sensitize the public on women related issues and problems at national, regional and state level. Details are given below :-

Legal Awareness Programmes and Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats sponsored.

The Commission has approved 227 Legal Awareness Programmes and 13 Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats during the year 2008-2009.

S. No.	States	Total No. of LAPs
1	Assam	24
2	Andhra Pradesh	17
3	Bihar	9
4	Chattisgarh	08
5	Delhi	19
6	Haryana	17
7	Himachal Pradesh	01
8	Jharkhand	06
9	Kerala	01
10	Karnataka	01
11	Madhya Pradesh	05
12	Maharashtra	06
13	Mizoram	02
14	Manipur	05
15	Orissa	11
16	Rajasthan	37
17	Tamil Nadu	02
18	Tripura	05
19	Uttar Pradesh	30
20	Uttrakhand	04
21	West Bengal	13
22	Punjab	02
23	Nagaland	02
	Total	227

Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat

S. No.	States	Total No. of PMLA
1.	Bihar	1
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1
3.	Uttar Pradesh	10
4.	West Bengal	1
	Total	13

Important Meetings/Workshops organized by the Commission.

1. National Consultation on “Draft National Policy for Women in Agriculture” held on 10th & 11th May, 2008 at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.



At the interactive session on “National Consultation on Draft National Policy for Women in Agriculture”. (From left) Dr. Girija Vyas, Ms. Sayeeda Hamid, Ms. Malini Bhattacharya.

2. Seminar on “Dayan Pratha” held on 18th November, 2008 at Srimanta Kalashetra, Panja Bari, Guwahati (Assam).

3. Seminar on Domestic Violence Act, 2005 held on 28.1.2009 at Guwahati.
4. Regional Seminar on the issue of Empowerment of Women and Panchayat Rules held on 28.2.2009 at Dehradun (Uttarakhand).
5. Seminar on Construction Workers at Chennai held on 23.1.2009
6. Regional Seminar on Violence against women held on 21.2.2009 at Guntur(Andhra Pradesh).
7. Seminar on Empowerment of Women held on 21.2.2009 at Tinsukiya (Assam).

Save Home Save Family Project

The National Commission for Women has also initiated a Pilot Project with Delhi Police in May, 2008. The project called ‘Save Home Save Family’ is intended to sensitize police personnel at the Thana /Police Station level in order to deal with women issues effectively. Phase II of the project has been initiated in March, 2009 for setting up three special cells for women and children in Delhi based on Maharashtra model. The major function of the Cells would be to handle cases of violence against women (VAW), provision of police assistance on criminal complaints, referral to family service agencies, counseling, legal aid and generating awareness on VAW. The project is funded by the National Commission for Women and is functioning in association with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). It also emphasises on adoption.

The Seminars, Public Hearings/Workshops, Awareness Programme sponsored by NCW.

1. State level Seminar on “Development Induced Displacement in Orissa and Women’s Rights” –



- by Women's Studies Research Centre, Berhampur University, Orissa.
2. Regional Seminar on "Peace Process and Development of North East India – A Gender Perspective" on 26th April, 2008 by Institute of Tai Studies and Research, (Assam).
 3. Conference on "Women Empowerment in Parliamentary and Local Self Government Institutions in India: Role, Status, Participation and Decision Making" - by Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI), Tirupati (A.P).
 4. Regional Conference on "Women in Conflict Situation" - by R.K. Mossang Memorial Society, Dist Changlang (A.P).
 5. State Level Seminar on "Status and Rights of Muslim Women" - by Jagrook Mahila Sanstha Parcham, Saharanpur (U.P)
 6. Seminar on "Micro Finance and women's Empowerment" – by Mrs. Helena Kaushik Women's (P.G) College, Malsisar, Dist. Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan).
 7. State Level Seminar on "Dynamic of Tribal Women Rights Over Minor Forest Produces (MFP) and other Forest Resources in Orissa" – by Integrated Tribal Development for Weaker Section (ITDWS), Koraput (Orissa).
 8. State Level Seminar on "Women and Political Participation" – by Rajiv Gandhi Jan Seva Sansthan, Udaipur (Rajasthan).
 9. State Level Seminar on "Role of Media in Women Empowerment" at Kanpur – by Draupadi Dream Trust, New Delhi.
 10. State Level Seminar on "Child Marriage in West Bengal" – by Silda Swasti Unnayan Samiti, Dist. Paschim Medinipur (West Bengal).
 11. Public Hearing on "Violence against Dalit Women at Orissa" - by Duarshani Shramik Sangha, Orissa.
 12. Public hearing on "Land rights of women in Jagdalpur, Bastar" – by Bastar Samajik Jan Vikas Samiti, Chattisgarh.
 13. Public Hearing on "Issues of Women Atrocities at Puri, Orissa" - by Sanjeevani, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
 14. Conducting Education & Training through workshop/Seminar /EDN &TRG for poor women headed by house holds – by Abhinav Kala Kendra Vikas Nagar, Ranchi.
 15. Two day Workshop on "Women Police Constables" at Pondicherry - by Pondicherry Women's Commission, (Pondicherry)
 16. Two Awareness Camps on 'Social Exclusion of Women in India' – by Education Rural Development Society, Villupuram Distt. (Tamil Nadu)
 17. One Awareness Programme on "Land Rights of Women" – By Bhartiya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Distt. Hardoi (U.P)
 18. One Awareness Programme on "Land Rights of Women" – by Ujjawal, Gurgaon (Haryana).
 19. One Awareness Programme on "Women Empowerment against Child Marriage" – by Nehru Shiksha Gramin Vikas Sanasthan, Dist. Dousa, Rajasthan.

20. One day programme for Various Self Help Groups regarding “bring down the suicide ratio in Union Territory of Pondicherry” – by Pondicherry Women’s Commission, Pondicherry.
21. Two Awareness Programmes on “Women Participation in NREGA” - by Avtar Smriti Shiksha Evam Kalyan Samiti, Morena, (Madhya Pradesh).
22. One Awareness Programme on “Facilitating Women’s Contribution in ensuring Safe Motherhood and Child Survival at Nandesari (Gujarat)” - by Deepak Charitable Vadodara, Gujarat.

Research Studies sponsored by NCW

1. Research Study on “Evaluation of Women’s Self Help Group’s Bank Linkage Programme in Manipur” by - Jana Neta Irawat Foundation for Education, Research, Development and Social Service, (Manipur).
2. Research Study on “Availability of Micro Credit to Women and the Role of SHGs in the District of Sambalpur, Orissa” by - Bharat Integrated Social Welfare Agency (BISWA), (Orissa)
3. Research Study on “Women, Armed Conflicts and its Impacts: A Prismatic Analysis (Comparative Study of Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District and Karbi Anglong District of Assam” by - Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, (Assam).
4. Research Study on “Coal Mines Women Labour at Dhanbad, Palamau and Ramgarh District (Jharkhand)” by - Centre of Studies for Cultural Identity of Weaker and Suppressed (CSWAS), New Delhi.
5. Study on “Impact of Suicides on Families and Women in Handloom and Power loom Sectors in Andhra Pradesh” by - Noble Social and Educational Society, Tirupati (A.P)
6. Study on “Women in Panchayats in District Almora Uttarakhand” by - Jalagam Samiti Sajgouri, Dist. Almora, Uttarakhand
7. Study on “Increasing of HIV/AIDS Women in Imphal East and West Districts of Manipur” by - State Rural Service Agency (RUSA), Imphal (Manipur).
8. Research Study on “Women engaged in Agriculture and Allied Activities in Barpeta, Assam” – by Dream Progressive Welfare Association, Barpeta, Distt. Barpeta (Assam).
9. Research Study on “Availability of Micro Credit to Women and the Role of SHGs” – by Mother Theresa Rural Development Society, Komarole, Distt. Prakasam (A.P).
10. Research Study on “A Study of Natural, Extent Incidence and Impact of Domestic Violence against Women in Orissa and Delhi” – by Association for Development Initiative, New Delhi.
11. Research Study on Effects of Female Literacy in Villages of Rural Rajasthan – by Massom Society for Social Services, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
12. Research Study on the “Socio-Economic Status of Women Workers with Disabilities in Bihar and Kerala” – by Ehsaas Foundation, New Delhi.
13. Research Study on “Developing a Counseling Toolkit for Adolescent Girl in NCR of Delhi” – by Avionics Trust, New Delhi.



14. Research Study on” Problems faced by Sarpanches and Panches” – by Gaya (Bihar).

15. Research Study on “Availability of Micro Credit to Women and the Role of Self Help Groups” – by Institute of Social Work, Kolkata (West Bengal).

1. Study on ‘Understanding women development issues in Rebari (Raika) community-the sheep rearing community of Rajasthan’ conducted by Shri Aasra Vikas Sanstha, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

In Rajasthan atrocities among women is common phenomenon. Women are yet to take benefit of the various government schemes, laws, and acts formulated to safeguard their interests and protect their rights. The tribal women in general are further marginalized. In Rajasthan one of the most vulnerable communities is Rebari who are semi nomadic in nature. The situation of women in this community is worst in the society. Due to lack of awareness of their rights under various laws and programmes and policies being implemented by the Government, this community has been victim in the society time and again.

Objectives:

- To understand the literacy situation among Rebari women/girls of different age groups.
- To study average age of marriage/ motherhood among the Rebari girls/women.
- Customs in Rebari community and their impact on gender relationship.
- To study health issues pertaining to Rebari Girls/ women and their impact on their overall growth.
- To study the change pattern of socio-economic conditions of women/girls in Rebari community.

- Social taboos/ customs bindings to women / girls in Rebari community and their economic situation.
- To understand daily work pattern and life style of women and girls in nomadic system.

Methodology:

- The study focused on the district of Pali where there is a high concentration of Rebari, spread over in all the eight Tehsils and approximately 300 villages. Based on the concentration of Rebari families in the area, forty sample villages were identified for detailed study.
- This study used questionnaire, which included their cultural practices during various socio-cultural occasions such as child birth, marriage, festivals, deaths etc.
- The detailed survey included social religious, cultural, political, health, leisure, economic and ecological aspects.
- Replies to the questions were asked about the different rules and regulations applicable for boys and girls in Rebari community.
- Information on Rebari community and their villages was collected from village data sheet. Specific information was collected through personal interviews with school teachers, community leaders, NGO representatives, public representatives etc.
- Data collected were tabulated response -wise respondent -wise.

Findings:

- Most of them do not possess permanent resources as land.

- Large numbers of children migrate with their parents and thus do not get education opportunities.
 - Child marriage is rampant among Rebari community.
 - They appear to be in the grip of vicious cycle of poverty, illiteracy and superstitions.
 - Youth face problems in getting new job as they lack proper education and vocational training.
 - For most of their physical, mental, and social ailments, they seem to have traditional dependence on spiritual abstraction rather than scientific and logical solutions.
 - Semi-nomadic life style appears to have made them more susceptible to influence of various social practices and religious belief making them tolerant and conservative.
 - Many a times a caste panchayat's decisions are gender discriminatory.
 - Kinship is defined as the connection or relationship between persons by blood or marriage.
 - Rebaris sale only male animals. Selling of female animals is a taboo as it enables them to own maximum number of child bearing animals in their herd.
 - Selling for slaughter is considered as a sin and is strictly prohibited.
 - Selling of milk is also prohibited, it is considered as equivalent to selling own children. Gradually there are some changes in mindset.
 - Processing of camel milk is also prohibited, whereas hair, wool and dung can be used or sold.
 - If the family is large particularly in joint families, men occupy higher status than women. Older people in the family occupy higher status than younger people.
 - Status of women is determined by the status of their husbands.
 - Status of women in a family varies with the position she holds at given time. The status of an unmarried daughter is very low in her parental family.
 - The status of women is elevated if she gives birth to a male child.
 - Death of the husband is the most unfortunate incident for the wife in the Rebari community; it is followed by series of sufferings in wife's life.
 - Daily house hold chores of Rebari women include from fetching water to cooking, cleaning utensils, grinding grains to everything one can imagine of.
 - In spite of the veil (Pardah) system women are considered as spokes person for the entire family.
 - Rebari women are yet to be part of the mainstream development.
- Recommendations:**
- Rebari Community sustain on animal husbandry, hence grazing rights for their cattle in forest or



forest land should be provided. Land need to be provided for pasture.

- Notifying Rebari under the category of Scheduled tribe is essential.
- Specific efforts to evolve animal rearing by Rebari Community as organized sector.
- Government agencies like MWCD and NCW should work towards protecting the rights of the child especially girls.
- Incentives should be given to the Rebari Community for sending their girl child to schools.
- Thurst should be on capacity building and knowledge building of Rebari girls.

2. Study on 'Women with HIV psycho –social prospective' conducted by UGC Center for Women Studies, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

HIV is a virus. Viruses such as HIV cannot grow or reproduce on their own, they need to infect the cells of living organism in order to replicate. The human immune system usually finds and kills viruses fairly quickly. It is not contagious and cannot be passed from person to person like cold and flu viruses or by ordinary social contacts. It is a member of a group of viruses called retroviruses. Retroviruses are simple microscopic organisms dependent on a host for reproduction. A person may be infected with HIV and might be perfectly well with no physical symptoms. As the disease progresses the person begins to have different illness and physical symptoms, because the HIV attacks the immune system itself.

HIV positive persons may have different types of experiences from the normal on the basis of external

stimuli. The onset of physical symptoms may evoke considerable stress about what would happen next. Researches reflect that supportive and quality relationships can decrease the likelihood of suicide among HIV infected individuals.

Objectives:

- To see how physical capacity and adaptation level of an individual changes with age.
- To find out how these changes compel for readjustment and create different types of problems
- To probe the influences of an individual's behavior and attitude.
- Keeping the above issues in mind the effect of the above factors on rural and urban women with HIV, and women who are not infected with HIV will be studied.

Methodology:

The tests tools for the study are:

- Family environment scale.
- Risk taking questionnaire
- Sex behavior attitude inventory
- Medley Personality inventory

In this study total number of sample is 120 persons. Out of which 60 were HIV positive cases whose age ranges from 22-45years; and 60 were normal cases and their age ranges from 21 to 45 years. The above sample of HIV positive cases is taken after screening around 110 HIV positive cases. These above two groups were again divided into two more groups i.e. rural and urban.

Findings:

- HIV positive cases have shown their attitude towards sexual behavior differently from the normal.
- HIV infected cases are generally caused due to unsafe sex and also they take sexual activity very casually. This kind of behavior is more influenced by the habit, expectations, and interest of the peer group.
- The present investigation indicates that HIV cases do not take precautionary measures in risky situations.
- HIV cases reported higher degree of sensitivity towards sexual satisfaction. These cases with the characteristics like extrovert and introvert personality attributes. Such personalities do not share their joys with others; they prefer to keep it to themselves.

Recommendations:

- In the families of HIV positive cases, family environment is disruptive hence demand effective interaction and social support in the family to enhance better family environment.
- As HIV positive cases have casual attitude towards sex, medical and psycho social counseling is needed for sexual health.
- Personality development programme should be organized for HIV positive women; it would enhance their self concept and self-confidence.
- HIV women are found to be risk takers, they should be provided for guidance and counseling for positive risk taking endurance. It would help them for psycho-physical well being.

- On the basis of psycho social variable it is highly recommended that Government agencies should organize awareness programme, seminars, and workshops both in rural and urban areas. Team of medical, sociologists, psychologists and social workers should be made available to the society who can whole heartedly work towards their betterment.
- Number of cases on HIV can be arrested by providing a different perspective towards sex and sound family environment. Sound and balanced personality would lead the society towards better tomorrow.

3. Study on 'Female scavengers in Andhra Pradesh' - conducted by Noble and Educational Society

The manual scavengers, though, treated worst than untouchables but they do not belong to single untouchable caste. In different states they have acquired different names, such as 'han', 'hadi' (Bengali), 'Balmiki,' 'Dhanuk' (UP), 'Methar' (Hyderabad), 'Methar', 'Bhangli' (Assam), 'Paki' (Coastal A.P.), 'Thotti' (Tamilnadu) etc. Among the sweepers, it is surprising, that the number of female scavengers are overwhelmingly high in all the States.

Manual scavenging involves removing human and animal excreta using brooms, small tin plates and baskets that are carried on the head. During the rainy season the contents of the baskets drip into the scavenger's hair, cloth, body. These female scavengers experience a number of difficulties at home, office and the society. The society looks down on them more than the untouchable castes. Even after working more than ten hours daily they have to do all the household chores.



Objectives:

- To delineate the socio economic profile of female scavengers and sweepers in the study area.
- To understand the economic status and living conditions of the families of female scavengers/ sweepers.
- To understand the economic status and living conditions of the families of the female scavengers/ sweepers.
- To understand the lifestyles of the children of the female scavengers.
- To study the working conditions and conditions of work of the female scavengers.
- To understand the efforts made by Government agencies, NGOs to rehabilitate the manual scavengers.
- To suggest appropriate measures for the liberation and rehabilitation of the female scavengers.

Methodology:

- The study was carried out in the district of East Godavari of Andhra Pradesh.
- The primary data for this study were collected through interview schedule, interview guides, observation notes, group discussions.
- Two hundred female sweepers were considered for this study.

Findings:

- Majority (98.5%) of the sweeper are Scheduled Caste. Overwhelmingly majority of the

respondents belong to sweeper families, where highest number of sweepers are women.

- These women lack proper living place.
- Literacy rate is very low among these groups. Dropout rate is quite high among these groups.
- These sweeper families rarely own any land. Whatever they earn is mostly spent on food.
- Majority of these families (60%) are indebted and depend on money lenders.
- Almost fifty percent of the respondents enter into this occupation at the tender age between 11-20years.
- Apart from all humiliation, these people, i.e. 50% of female scavengers work on contractual basis, without any future security. They lack awareness on employment security provided to the employee by the employer.

Recommendations:

Recommendations were made to improve the quality of life of the sweeper; hence suggestions were for Central Government, State Government, and local bodies. They are as follows:

Central Government:

- Government institutions like Ministry of Women and child Development and National Commission for Women should provide some welfare and development measures for these sweepers.
- The above government agencies should constitute grievance redressal cell to look into the grievances of the sweepers.

State Government:

- Awareness on rights and responsibilities of sweepers as well as occupational health hazards and importance of cleanliness should be created among them.
- To provide house, loans and subsidies to these sweepers.
- Basic amenities like education, drinking water, residential area with proper drainage, electricity, communication facilities, health care need to be provided to the sweepers as well.
- Irrespective of the nature of employment, all sweepers should be provided with clothes, protective equipments, shoes, condiments, maternity benefits etc.
- Provide permanent employment to the temporary /contractual sweepers.
- Create awareness among them about trade unions and motivate the sweeper to join these unions.
- For hearing the women sweepers' complaint against officials and co-workers, a body/cell to be created to take action against these culprits.
- Motivate the sweepers and their dependants to take up alternate occupations. They can be encouraged to join Self help group (SHG).
- To initiate non formal education programme among the sweepers.
- Motivate the parents to enroll their children in the school.
- To create formal credit institutions so their dependency on the money lenders is lessened.

Local Bodies:

- To enact towards providing basic facilities to the sweepers.
 - Action should be taken to ensure their salaries on time every month.
 - Local government bodies and the State government need to work hand in hand for providing all the facilities to the sweepers.
- 4. Study on 'The impact of increasing migration on women in Orissa' conducted by the Sansristi, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.**

The process of migration denotes any movement of groups of people from one locality to another, which can take different form. It has constraining effect on the migrant not only in structural terms but also in cultural terms, this also include abuse, exploitation and emotional psychological distress. Despite the rising number of female migrants, women are not given equal importance as compared to men in migration. While viewing women migrants as dependants, we may often ignore their individual economic contributions. Poverty and search for employment have been the predominant propellants of the migration of people. Orissa being an agrarian economy where majority of the farmers are small land holders, seasonal unemployment, non-application of modern technology had forced the rural people to migrate to urban areas within and outside their districts and also to their neighboring States. With rapid industrialization and globalization, there is rise in female migrant workers. Migration both voluntary and forced ones among women and children is increasing at an alarming rate in the State of Orissa



Objectives:

General Objective

- Women's needs must constitute important aspect of development and specifically policy making.

Specific Objectives

- To define survival migration in the context of women.
- To investigate migration and its causes in the study area-inter state or intra state.
- To assess the impact of migration on women's security in the context of work, food, health, violence.
- To investigate the condition of the female headed households created due to migration.
- To study the changes in women's work due to migration.
- To assess the access of women to Government Schemes on poverty alleviation implemented to stop migration.
- To provide recommendations on the subject.

Methodology:

- This study focuses on the location based research. This research is based on two districts of KBK region, i.e. Nuapada, Bolangir for field survey. The selection of these two regions of KBK emerged after detailed discussion with NGOs and people who had migrated.
- This study considers women who are mostly destitute, landless, belong to marginalized households and also those women who are

left behind when husband migrate for employment.

- A multi-methodological approach has been followed where main emphasis is on layered qualitative approach. In particular, the approach focuses on examining detailed semi structured qualitative interviews with women to ascertain perception of their knowledge and awareness. Forty respondents from each district of Nuapada and Bolangir were taken and focus group discussion was done with women SHG members, old women and migrant women.
- Data collected from Government offices at State, District, and Local headquarters.
- Case studies were done in some cases to highlight the impact of migration on women.
- Apart from primary data, secondary data was collected from Census, Economic Survey, Human Development Report, NGO materials.

Findings:

- It is the brick kilns of AP and within Orissa the whole family migrates to cities like Mumbai, Surat, Nagpur, Raipur, Bangalore, Bhillai for construction work and for rickshaw pulling only men migrate. It was observed that cultivation and wage labor is main occupation of the migrant households. Men are given priority whereas females are deprived of wage labor in their village and also in the nearby areas.
- Collection of forest products is another source of income of the migrant households. Gradually local people's rights on forest is restricted and

hence it is difficult on their part to sustain as well.

- Age is an important factor for women for migration. 80% of the women belonging to the age group of 16 to 24 years were migrating to different places. In the two areas where study was conducted, being drought prone area 90% women had migrated to Andhra Pradesh to work in brick kiln.
- Short term migration appears to be a major livelihood strategy for both males and females in Bolangir and Nuapada district.
- The land holding of migrant households indicates that 28% of the migrant households are landless. Half of the land is not suitable for cultivation hence for sustenance owning land is not sufficient. Low production, scarcity of work, low and irregular payment, heavy debt force the households to take loans; as a consequence they are compelled to migrate.
- As both the districts are prone to draught once there is crop damage the marginal farmers and small farmers resort to selling or mortgaging their land to the moneylenders. It is an underlying cause of related severe problems including debt, impoverishment, starvation and migration.
- As there is lack of availability of food for the family for six to seven months. they agree to migrate as the Dalals provide them food security during this lean season.
- To meet the household expenses, marriage, festivals, funeral ceremony, medical expenses, repayment of old loans, education etc; poor farmers often take loan from money lenders/ Zamindars and in turn mortgage their land. In such cases Zamindars charge very high interest which the poor people fail to repay many a times. Conditions of these loans are stringent and non negotiable.
- In order to repay the loan and avoid the wrath of moneylenders these people take advance from labor contractors. Focused group discussion reveals that, the households are in contact with the village level contractors during financial crisis. It makes them more vulnerable as they sink further into the vicious cycle of debt. Finally they are forced to migrate to repay the Dalal. In this process, they lose their bargaining power both in terms of official wage and better working conditions at working place.
- Neither District Labor Officer nor Panchayat are aware about the number of migrating women.
- The members who migrate are cheated and exploited by the Panchayat officials in distribution facilities. Especially in the women headed households basic amenities are denied as they fail to go to the Panchayat office. No effort is made from government side to provide work during lean season.
- The village level workers are main actors in the migration process.
- Ignorance and lack of awareness is a major hindrance. All the BPL card holders did not even have BPL cards hence are not able to get rice regularly.
- Majority of the women i.e.57.5% women denied the implementation of the scheme of NREGA.



Work allotment under NREGA was not fully operational in the villages. Some villages have got cards and some house holds had applied but have not received the card. Availability of job through card is quite irregular.

- In all the villages, migration starts in the month of October-November and continues till May-June. During migrating season labor contractors /dalals camp in the town to recruit people. All the migrant women with the family members are taken to the worksites by the Sardars and dalals.
- Households who take higher loan work almost sixteen hours a day to pay off their loan. Wages are given to the family head especially male members. There was no individual payment to the other working members of the family.
- Migrant women face various problems both physical and mental. During commuting many a time women are harassed by other co-passengers. While going to work and back from site also women have been subjected to molestation, rape and even kidnapping.
- The women of Nuapada and Bolangir whose husbands have migrated manage their house on their own. They can sustain on their own production for 2-3 months often they end up in distress selling of their harvest; after that they have to mostly survive on wage labor. These women even do not get 10-15 days work during the year in their village and they fail to go to the nearby village. That's why they collect forest products like mahua flower and kendu leaves. It only fetches Rs.200-300/- annually.
- Old people whose son and daughter-in-law migrate too, face various kinds of problems, starting from financial crisis when they are ill there is no one around to help them out. These people are equally harassed and exploited.
- The children of the migrants are affected socially and emotionally. The children who migrate along with their parents discontinue their schooling. During migration season dropout among school going children is quite high.

Recommendations:

- A political will is required to deal the issue of migration in Bolangir and Nuapada.
- To ensure sustainable livelihood at the migration villages.
- Supplementary source of income for women should be provided.
- Policy matters at National and State level should be stringent to protect women rights and empower the same.
- Policies of migration, trafficking, labor law and employment guarantee programme to be interlinked.
- Structural changes are required from grass root level to National level to sensitize about women rights and justice.
- To set up task force to monitor and prevent migration.
- Registration of the labor contractors at the DLO should be done.
- There should be networking with women organizations/NGOs with host States/ districts for complaint redressal of the women migrants.

**5. Study on woman resource right agenda:
Developing a case for a "Sansadhani Program
in Delhi"**

Objectives of the Proposed Study:

- To study the composition of woman livelihood groups set in different districts of Delhi against the livelihood provisions provided by the state and the market.
- To find out the current needs of such women and the communities they live in relation to services they have at present.
- To understand the gap between what the women are entitled and what they get from the system against the right based approach
- Suggest solution based on group approach to housing, land and resource rights

Methodology

The study collated feedback from the community especially women on their opinions regarding content, pathways, milestones and management inputs to set up their women resource zones or *Sansadhini* in their neighborhood.

Selection of geographical areas

The study covers Bawana, Bannuwal Nagar, Saraswati Vihar in Rohini, Rajiv Gandhi slum behind ITO and the Yamuna Pushta areas for the study.

Primary data were collected from 76 HHs in Bawana, 30 Muslim women from Zakhir Nagar and 20 positive women in South Delhi. Apart from the HH survey, 8 Focus group discussion have been conducted with 6 groups of women and 2 groups of men.

Outcome

- Women in Bawana have housing rights in term of a house on a plot of 18 sq. or 12 sq. meters as a resettlement package on lease for a period of seven years. This does strengthen the women's position but more is needed to make the position stronger in the area. The family at present stays on the premises owned by women but she may not have a control over the paper or the property.
- In most cases elderly women, mostly mother in law had the housing rights. This survey enabled them to reflect on their position of strength that they are in today.
- Women had some jewellery that they could call their own.
- Most women claimed that what ever is in the home is for all. But they also realize that in legal capacity they are particularly asset less and vulnerable. Only asset they may have is their capacity to provide labour to the house by which they can earn income for survival.
- Almost all women go to their place of origin once a year if finances permit. Only 10% remain in Delhi as they have been thrown outside the family system due to widowhood or are deserted for reasons stated as economic or emotional reason.
- 90% women receive guest from their native place who stay on till they can get employment in Delhi.
- The available work and opportunities are in making stuffed toys and packaging material for



the use of industrial goods and textiles, domestic and factory work.

- Large number of women know cutting and tailoring and the making of teddy bears. Other skills include cooking; skills in agriculture and they can be re- oriented for horticulture and floriculture work; skills in computers, Dai work, HIV Aids training, getting training in Basti sevika bhawan;
- Many spaces in F and G blocks are not in use for its purpose; instead they are being used as a garbage dump and a defecation ground.
- **Productive resources that women would like to have are the following:**
 - 22% want financial assistance
 - 6% wants work to earn
 - 18% do not want any help as they are satisfied with what they have
 - 5% of women didn't give any response
 - 5% want her individual bank account to save her money
 - 9% want to join SHG, for micro-credit services.
- 65% women want to be economically independent whereas 10% do not want any change in the way they are living.
- The solution to increase resources in the name of women may come from a group approach to asset building. Small steps rather ideas that emerged from the FGD were:

- 50% of women have no information regarding government policies and programmes. There are 15% of women who had knowledge regarding schemes, yet are unaware of the correct procedures of the schemes.
- **The need of having** an information center was expressed by the women during the FGD. Community centre has already been granted to Navjyoti. Prayas and other NGOs in the area. Most of the women express to use these centers as a placement hub for workers for domestic and construction work
- **Women group express to have** Sat Sang Bhawan where they can pray their God and use the space for community gatherings.
- Ration shop is the first priority for the community. The women face a lot of hardship in accessing ration.
- Like other women in India most of the women in PWN do not own any resources, their HIV positive status further exacerbates their vulnerability..

Action emerging from the study.

1. A policy to ensure women resource rights as an obligation of the government and market.
2. System of information and application for grants to women's groups to offer a single window approach:- This system could be an activity of the state commission of women to operate with specific targets of increasing resource base of women to bring equality between men and women ownership in each district by the end of five years.

3. Allocating some already built up infrastructure if newly planned buildings are not available.
4. These pilot projects will have link to another ten projects in eight different states of India that link to Delhi as a migration route.
5. In support of the above, Sathi calls for a civil society window with National Planning Commission and National Commission of Women to lead government in delivering gender equity.
6. **STUDY ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WOMEN MICRO ENTERPRISES UNDER PANCHAYATHI RAJ INSTITUTIONS**

Study undertaken by LISS INDIA, KOTHAMANGALAM-KERALA

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To ascertain the role played by women micro enterprises in empowering women in Kerala
2. To examine the feasibility of women micro enterprises in empowering women in Kerala
3. To assess the role of governmental and non-governmental agencies in this sector.
4. To evaluate the role of various financial agencies and technical agencies including banks, industries etc in promoting women micro enterprises
5. To ascertain whether women empowerment leads to successful women micro enterprises or vice versa.
6. To identify various problems faced by women micro enterprises.
7. To recommend suggestive measures to the government.

Research Methodology

Three districts namely Ernakulam, Palghat and Idukki were selected for the study. The relevant information was collected through primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected from 30 funding agencies, 90 individual micro enterprises and 330 group enterprises.

Report constitutes 7 chapters as per details given below:-

- I. Introduction
- II. Theoretical Setting
- III. Empirical Analysis Case Studies
- V. Executive Summary
- VI. Conclusion and Recommendations

Finding of the Study

- The middle aged women with their family responsibility and duties made a better use of Panchayat Raj system.
- 30% of the beneficiaries have had school education up to 7th standard, 53.3% of them have high school education and only 16.7% have studied up to pre -university level.
- These women micro enterprises produce a wide variety of products. Among the 90 Individual Micro Enterprises 34.4 % deal with food products; 6.7.% produce Home appliances and other products; 3.3 % are producing Ready Made dresses and 55.6% produce various other commodities like food items, soap etc;
- The study showed that 65.6 % of them received money from the Panchayat and 34.4.% of them received from Kudumbasree.



- 95.6% of the beneficiaries were used fund for their Micro Enterprises. The rest 4.4% used the fund for some other purposes also.
- The success of a Micro Enterprise can be measured in terms of the employment potential. The survey showed that 74.5% of them has less than 5 employers; 13.7% of them could give employment to 5-10 members and 11.8% of them have more than 10 employers.
- The survey showed that 90% of them received income up to Rs. 1000/- per month from their enterprise. 7.8% of them receive income between Rs. 1000 - 3000 and 2.2. % of them received income above Rs. 5000.
- Empowerment can be measured with certain qualitative indices like improvement in the living standards, improvement in the confidence, improvement in the communication skills, ability to create the habit of thrift and saving and improvement in the access to economic resources. All the respondents agree that they have improved a lot in all these respects.
- The empowerment is also visible in the contribution of these women in the social and political sphere of life. It has been found that 94.4% of them participate in the Grama Sabha. 11.1 % of them conducted in the Panchayati Raj Elections. 53.3% of them held various positions in voluntary organizations. 92.2% of them held positions like President/Secretary/ Treasure in their neighborhood groups.
- 9.1% of respondents had to close their enterprises due to lack of proper knowledge

regarding the technology and 27.3% are facing this type of problems.

- It has been found that women prefer to start group micro enterprises than the single owned individual micro enterprises. The reason behind this was that the group enterprises have a capital amount larger than that of a single owned micro enterprise.
- The economic development can be measured in terms of a person access to economic resources. Among the respondents 89.7% agreed that they have improved in their accessed economic resources.
- 31.8% women entrepreneurs were facing problems in running their micro enterprises. Out of which 40% were facing financial problems, 7.6% had employment problem and 20% had marketing problems. Only 4.8% faced the technical problems..

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- Easy and cheap finance should be ensured for the successful and uninterrupted working of the enterprise. Government should take appropriate steps in this regard.
- Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to produce Quality Products suitable for exports through various incentives and other supporting systems.
- The Government may protect micro enterprises from unhealthy competitions with multinational companies through various measures.
- The consumption of products of women micro enterprises should be encouraged by the Government through public media.

- Successful Women Micro Enterprise should be honored with recognitions and awards.
- Exposure Programmes at National and International levels should be organized for these enterprises.
- Government may set up Women Industrial Estates with all the infrastructures like road, electricity, water supply, warehousing facilities etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATE GOVERNMENT

- Latest technology should be made available to the prospective entrepreneurs by the appropriate agencies/authorities.
- Easy and cheap finance should be ensured for the successful and uninterrupted working of the enterprise. Government should take appropriate steps in this regard.
- Many of the enterprises have failed as they could not find suitable market for their products. Hence before starting any enterprise a detailed market survey should be conducted and intensive training in marketing skills is advisable for the entrepreneurs.
- An apex body of women micro enterprises should be set up by the Government at Block/District level, which may procure the products manufactured by the units and sell them through their sales outlets.
- Centralized market at District level should be set up by the authorities, where the enterprises can display their products and sell them directly to the customers.
- During festival seasons, Mega Melas should be organized for these products, where large scale selling can be done through offering attractive discounts.
- Quality consciousness should be generated in the entrepreneurs through regular workshops /seminars, with the help of professionals. An apex body can market the product under a common brand name.
- The apex body should also organize regular workshops for up- gradation of technology and skill of these entrepreneurs.
- Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to produce Quality Products suitable for exports through various incentives and other supporting systems.
- The Government may protect micro enterprises from unhealthy competitions with multinational companies through various measures.
- The consumption of products of women micro enterprises should be encouraged by the Government through public media.
- Successful Women Micro Enterprise should be honored with recognitions and Exposure Programmes at National and International levels should be organized for these enterprises.
- Monitoring agency representing local bodies, Govt. Departments and funding agencies should be set up for the benefits of these micro units.
- Along with the monitoring committee, there should be a Crisis Management Committee for the aid of enterprises in distress and may be advised to avail their expertise with out hesitation.



- Enterprises should be made aware of the various expert services provided by a Government and non-Governmental agencies, right from project identification, Project Preparations, various Govt. Schemes, Financial support, Export incentives etc.
- A Grievance Cell may be set up by the authorities for the benefit of women micro enterprises.
- To overcome the constraints from various formalities and procedures and red tapism involved in it, there should be a Single Window System for the new entrepreneurs.
- Government may set up Women Industrial Estates with all the infrastructures like road, electricity, water supply, warehousing facilities etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

- The reason for failure of a number of women micro enterprises in the long run was that the Project identification was not proper and so the unit was not a viable one. Therefore it should be ensured that prospective women entrepreneurs should be given proper guidance and training in identifying suitable projects.
- New entrepreneurs should be encouraged to start units which use local raw materials which are easily available at lower cost
- Latest technology should be made available to the prospective entrepreneurs by the appropriate agencies/authorities.
- Many of the enterprises have failed as they could not find suitable market for their products. Hence before starting any enterprise a detailed market survey should be conducted and intensive training in marketing skills is advisable for the entrepreneurs.
- Centralized market at District level should be set up by the authorities where the enterprises can display their products and sell them directly to the customers.
- During festival seasons, Mega Melas should be organized for these products, Quality consciousness should be generated in the entrepreneurs through regular workshops/seminars, with the help of professionals.
- By ensuring a Standard Quality of Products of similar units the apex body can market the product under a common brand name.
- The apex body should also organize regular workshops for up-gradation of technology and skill of these entrepreneurs.
- Many micro units of women group fail due to difference of opinion among the group members, mainly because these groups are formed only for the sake of starting a micro unit as they are offered various incentives by the authorities to achieve their targets. Therefore group micro units should be considered for women groups with proven track record only.
- Successful Women Micro Enterprise should be honored with recognitions and awards.
- Opportunities for interaction with successful women enterprises should be encouraged.
- Monitoring agency representing local bodies, Government Departments and funding agencies

should be set up for the benefits of these micro units along with the monitoring committee, there should be a Crisis Management Committee for the aid of enterprises in distress and may be advised to avail their expertise with out hesitation.

- Enterprises should made aware of the various expert services provided by a number of Government and non-Governmental agencies, right from project identification, Project Preparations, various Govt. Schemes, Financial support, Export incentives etc.
- A Grievance Cell may be set up by the authorities for the benefit of women micro enterprises.
- To overcome the constraints from various formalities and procedures and red tapism involved in it, there should be a Single Window System for the new entrepreneurs.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO OTHER AGENCIES (NGOS)

- It should be ensured that prospective women entrepreneurs should be given proper guidance and training in identifying suitable projects.
- New entrepreneurs should be encouraged to start units which use local raw materials which are easily and cheaply available.

- Many of the enterprises have failed as they could not find suitable market for their products. Hence before starting any enterprise a detailed market survey should be conducted and intensive training in marketing skills is advisable for the entrepreneurs.
- During festival seasons, Mega Melas should be organized for these products, where large scale selling can be done through offering attractive discounts. Quality consciousness should be generated in the entrepreneurs through regular Workshops /seminars, with the help of professionals.
- Successful Women Micro Enterprise should be honoured with recognitions and Awards
- Opportunities for interaction with successful women enterprises should be encouraged.
- Enterprises should made aware of the various expert services provided by a number of Government and non-Governmental agencies, right from project identification, Project Preparations, various Govt. Schemes, Financial support, Export incentives etc.