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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

Evaluation Study
OF
Impact of Activities of Mahila Mandals

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Preface

The Mahila Mandal scheme is in operation in Haryana since 1982-83 with the objectives of active participation and involvement of rural women in various activities to improve their socio-economic status. Initially, it was implemented through Development and Panchayat Department but in 1992, it was transferred to Women and Child Development Department. The scheme basically covers four sub-schemes namely i) Promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals, ii) Mahila mandal sammelans, iii) Incentives/Awards to mahila mandals and iv) Inter-State study tours of mahila mandals.

The Planning Commission, Govt. of India has suggested that “the State Government should evaluate the impact of activities of mahila mandals”. On the request of Women and Child Development Department, a decision was taken by the Financial Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Planning to conduct an evaluation study on “ Impact of Activities of Mahila Mandals”.

There are 6713 mahila mandals in Haryana. The study has revealed that a drastic change has been noticed in the approach of the mahila mandal members. After 1999, 73.08% sampled executive members and 57.70% non-executive members visited mahila mandal sammelans, 73.33% sampled non-executive members visited inter-state study tours, 96.25% executive members adopted some activities at their home, etc.

The study has focused light on bottlenecks/shortcomings in the implementation of the programme. Recommendations have been made to overcome these shortcomings. It is hoped that the findings/recommendations made in the evaluation study would prove useful to the department and policy makers.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Director, Women and Child Development Department, Haryana and his officers/staff for their co-operation and assistance in supplying the required data.

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Executive Summary

Evaluation Study of Impact of Activities of Mahila Mandals

Mahila Mandals are voluntary organisations of rural women interested in working together with the help of Gram Sevikas, Mukhya Sevikas and Lady Circle Supervisors. Mahila mandal basically aims at empowering rural women & enabling them to organise and improve their socio-economic status. This is a plan scheme and has been in operation in Haryana since 1982-83. Initially, it was implemented by the Development and Panchayat Department and transferred to Women and Child Development Department during 1992. There were 6713 registered mahila mandals during 2003-04. Mahila mandals basically cover four schemes namely i) Promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals, ii) Mahila mandal sammelans, iii) Incentives/ Awards to mahila mandals and iv) Inter-State study tours of mahila mandals.

1. Objectives of the Evaluation Study:

i) To study the promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals, ii) to assess the awareness among rural women through mahila mandal sammelan scheme, iii) to ascertain the incentives/awards given to the mahila mandals, iv) to assess the impact of inter-State study tour on mahila mandals and v) to identify the bottlenecks/ shortcomings faced in the implementation of the scheme and to suggest corrective measures.

2. Findings:

A. Programme Implementation:

1. Out of 6713 registered mahila mandals, maximum were in Gurgaon district(657), followed by Yamuna Nagar(612), Ambala(434), Karnal(421), Kurukshetra(406) and Faridabad(400) whereas, minimum in Rohtak(154) district followed by Panipat(168), Fatehabad(216) and Jhajjar(244) due to number of villages in these districts.
2. One district-level sammelan was held in each district every year and one State-level sammelan was held in Ambala district during 2000-01.
 - Gurgaon, Jind, Panchkula, Sonipat and Yamuna Nagar districts did not organise any study tour during 2000-01 to 2002-03 due to less innovative staff whereas the remaining districts organised at least one tour during the study period.
3. Against the target of promotion and strengthening of 800 mahila mandals per year, the department achieved 100 % target during 2000-01, 78.37% in 2001-02 and 55% in 2002-03.

- Against the targets of 20, 20 and 19, the department organised 20, 19 and 19 mahila mandal sammelans during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.
 - Against the target of awarding 102 mahila mandals per year, the department awarded 103, 102 and 90 mahila mandals during the respective years.
 - The department achieved the target of organising 6 inter-State study tours during each year.
4. During 2000-01, 18 awards of category 'A' (Rs. 2000/-) (except Panipat) were presented to one mahila mandal from each district. Nineteen awards were given during 2001-02 whereas, 17 awards were given (except Kaithal and Sonipat) during 2002-03.
 - 'B' category award (Rs.1500/-) was not given in Kaithal and Sonipat districts and one award was given in Panipat during 2002-03.
 - 'C' category award (Rs. 1000/-) was not given in Kaithal and Sonipat districts during 2002-03.
 5. Against outlay of Rs. 12.40 lakh every year, 'promotion and strengthening' component occupied largest share (48.89 %) followed by 'sammelans'(24.19 %), 'inter-State study tours' (16.13 %) and "Incentives/awards" (11.29%). The department utilised 98.38 % of the outlay (Rs.12.40 lakh) in 2000-01, 80.48 % in 2001-02 and 75.80 % in 2002-03.

B. Field Survey: Executive Members.

1. Literacy rate of sampled executive members was 45 % (36 out of 80).
 - Women belonged to scheduled castes were less (7.50 %).
 - Participation of old executive members i.e. above 60 years (28.75 %) and very young i.e. below 35 years (8.75%) was very less as compared to the mature age women (62.75%).
 - Majority of executive members i.e. 58.75% (47) were holding their posts since last 10-19 years.
2. Out of 40 mahila mandals, 17 (42.50 %) were in operation since inception of the scheme, 14 (35 %) since 1986-90, 7 (17.50 %) from 1991-95 and 2 (5 %) since 1995-2000.
 - 92.50 % mahila mandals were operated from the houses of Pradhan, 5% from some Government buildings and only 2.50 % from private building.
3. 57.5 % mahila mandals utilised the grant by purchasing dari, utensils, tables, chairs, etc.
 - 73.75 % executive members were not satisfied with the grant for the mahila mandals.

4. Most of the mahila mandals (80%) did not call sabha (meeting) within the stipulated time (2 months).
 - 87.50 % executive members opined that mahila mandal sabha play an important role in developing personal contact and social works could be done, resulted in welfare of community.
 - 96.25 % executive members adopted few or more activities at their home.
5. 56.25 % (45) executive members made 52 visits to the mahila mandal sammelans.
 - 73.08 % (38) visits were made after 1999-2000, shows increasing interest in sammelans.
 - 43 (95.55 %) spread knowledge to other members and adopted few/more activities at home.
 - Sammelans were not having major impact on their economic condition as 39 (86.67 %) opined that it was not helpful in generating income.
 - All 45 sampled members were satisfied with the arrangements made in the sammelans.
6. Two mahila mandals of Jind (2002) and Sonipat (1995) received category 'A' award (Rs.2000).
 - One of Jind and 3 of Kurukshetra received category 'B' award (Rs.1500).
 - Five mahila mandals of Faridabad, 4 of Sonipat, 2 of Jind and 1 of Kurukshetra received category 'C' award (Rs. 1500) (12 in total).
 - Four mahila mandals also received special awards either in cash (Rs. 715 or Rs.1000) or in kind such as pressure cookers/sewing machines/utensils.
7. Only 88.75 % executive members (71) were aware of the inter-State study tour scheme due to lack of education and traditional social structure.
 - 21.25 % executive members (17) attended inter-State study tours, 3 (18.75 %) were SC/BC. Therefore ladies from this section are coming forward to take exposure of the outside world.
8. Out of 17, only 4 (23.53 %) accepted that tour was helpful in generating economic activities.
 - Main emphasis was on visiting religious/historical places rather than learning the income generating activities. They were interested to be reselected for such tours.
 - General opinion was that the duration of 10 days was too long and suggested for 5-6 days tours.
9. 50 (62.50 %) executive members gave favorable remarks (satisfactory/very good/good) about the mahila mandal scheme as a whole & 30 (37.50 %) gave adverse remarks (poor/not useful).

C. Field Survey: Non Executive/Temporary Members

1. Literacy rate of sampled non-executive members was 40 % (48 out of 120).
 - Non-executive members belonged to scheduled castes were less (12.50 %).
 - Participation of old non-executive members i.e. above 60 years (20.83 %) and very young i.e. below 35 years (14.17 %) was less as compared to the mature age women (65%).
2. 91.67 % attended few or more mahila mandal sabhas and 8.33 % did not attend any sabha.
 - 80 % non-executive members opined that mahila mandal sabha play an important role in developing personal contact and social works could be done resulted in welfare of community.
3. 10 (8.33 %) were not aware of sammelan scheme due to priority towards household activities.
 - 35 % (42) non-executive members made 52 visits to the mahila mandal sammelans.
 - Most of the members (92.87 %) who had visited the sammelans were taking personal interest in expending the benefits of the scheme by sharing knowledge to other members.
 - All 42 members adopted few/more activities at home.
 - 92.85 % sampled members (39) were satisfied with the arrangements made in the sammelans.
4. Only 93.33 % non-executive members (112) were aware of the inter-State study tour scheme due to lack of education and traditional social structure.
 - 12.50 % executive members (15) attended inter-State study tours 6 (40%) were SC/BC. Therefore ladies from this section are coming forward to take exposure of the outside world.
 - Out of 15 visits 11 were made after 1999-00, shows increase in interest in the recent years.
 - Out of 15, only 5 (33.33 %) opined that tour was helpful in generating economic activities.
 - More emphasis was on visiting religious/historical places rather than learning the income generating activities.
5. 65 (54.17 %) non-executive members gave favorable remarks (satisfactory/very good/good) about the mahila mandals and 55 (45.83 %) gave adverse remarks (poor/not useful).

4. SHORTCOMINGS/BOTTLENECKS:

1. Outlay (12.40 lakh) was very less to cover all 4 sub-schemes effectively in the State.
2. Target for promoting and strengthening of 800 mahila mandals every year was under achieved (78.37 %) during 2001-02 and (55 %) during 2002-03.
3. Scheduled Caste women were having very less representation in the executive (7.50 %) and non-executive members (10 %) of the mahila mandals.
4. 80 % mahila mandals did not call sabha within 2 months, even one did not call during 2003.
5. Majority (73.75 %) executive members were not satisfied with amount of grant.
6. Only 56.25 % executive and 35 % non-executive members visited sammelan, out of which, 86.67 % opined that it was not playing important role in generating income.
7. Against the target of 102 awards, 90 (88.24 %) awards were given in 2002-03.
8. Panchkula, Yamuna Nagar, Sonipat, Gurgaon and Jind districts did not organise Inter-State study tour during 2000-01 to 2002-03.
9. Only 16 % sampled members attended inter-State study tour. Majority of them replied that tours were not helpful in income generating activities as the main emphasis was on visiting religious/ historical places.
10. 2.50 % mahila mandals were in Pradhan's house rather than Government/private buildings.
11. Many members were close relatives/families of the executive members due to which the scheme covered a small area/part of the village.
12. 37.50 % executive and 45.83% non-executive members gave adverse remarks about the scheme.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Outlay (Rs.12.40 lakh) should be increased up to a sizeable amount.
2. More women especially from the SC category should be involved in the mahila mandals.
3. The officers should ensure that mahila mandal sabha should be organised in two months.
4. The grant for raising economic activities should be increased (from Rs.1500) to Rs. 5000.
5. Pradhan should encourage each member to visit sammelan at least once. Budget for sammelans should be increased by 2 times. Better planning in organising sammelans is required.

6. Assessment of mahila mandals for awards should be transparent. P.O., ICDS should be given more power for finalising the awards. More efficient staff should be deployed to motivate rural ladies. Number of awards should be increased.
7. Each district should organise inter-State study tour once in alternate year with special emphasis on visiting income-generating activities.
8. Tour of 5-6 days should be organised as it is difficult for rural women to leave their family for a longer period of 10 days. Participation of more members (4-5 from each block) is suggested.
9. Govt./private buildings should be made available for the mahila mandal sabha as some members were not fully participating due to their non-cordial relations with the Pradhan.
10. Numbers of mahila mandals in big villages should be increased.
11. This Programme should not be limited to the members only. Other women should also be encouraged to take benefit of the activities of mahila mandal scheme.

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

Since ancient times women were given an important place in Indian society. They were treated as Goddess and their presence was essential in family functions especially in Haryana. With the passage of time the status of women in Haryana has been gradually deteriorated. Women especially in rural sector are disorganised resulted in a disadvantaged group despite the glorious tradition of their high status in the family or community. They have been facing discrimination in the male dominated society. The different types of discrimination namely violence at home and in society, sex trafficking, unequal pay and denial of property rights and restrictive customs on account of gender etc. It is important to understand that the only difference between men and women are the gender/biological. All other differences are made socially and sanctioned by the society. Over time it becomes the norm/parampara and the way of life. For example, in some rural as well as in urban areas, it is an accepted fact that:

- A girl child is looked at as a burden upon birth.
- A girl child need not study, but has to learn the household chores and be prepared for marriage.
- A women's place is at home, to give birth to children and to take care of the family.
- A women is rarely given the opportunity or encouraged to voice her opinion and/or to make decisions within the family and society with respect to education, financial matters etc.
- Women is paid less than men for the same type and amount of work.

An end to all types of discrimination against women does not mean just improving laws and legislation. More importantly, it calls for changing attitudes within the social, political and economic system. The Government of India declared 2001 as Women's Empowerment Year (WEY) to create and raise large scale awareness of women's issues so that they can take their rightful place in the mainstream of the nation's social, political and economic life and thus to build an equal and prosperous society in the 21st century.

Women constitute 48.41 % of the total population of the country whereas it is 46.27 % for the Haryana State while 46.44 % of the rural population of Haryana. In rural Haryana they are playing an active role in the household as well as in the farming/non-farming sector. In agriculture, some operations such as transplantation

of paddy, cotton picking, weeding and harvesting is mainly done by them. It is a well-known fact that 71 % of the State population live in villages and a State can not achieve the targets fixed for development until the rural women are properly organised and educated. Keeping in view the active participation of the rural women 'Mahila Mandals' were set up in the rural Haryana.

1.2 Mahila Mandal:

The Mahila mandals are voluntary organisations of rural women interested in working together with the help of Gram Sevikas, Mukhya Sevikas and Lady Circle Supervisors. Mahila mandal basically aims at empowering rural women and enabling them to reorganise and improve their social and economic status. The purpose of mahila mandal is to initiate and accelerate action to improve access to and control of resources by women. Its objective is also with the active participation and involvement of all women residing in the villages.

This is a plan scheme/programme and has been in operation in Haryana since 1982-83. Earlier, it was implemented by the Development and Panchayat Department, but it was transferred to Women and Child Development Department during 1992 and since then it is under their control. As per the available data, there were 6533 registered mahila mandals spread over in 16 districts during 1992-93, which increased to 6713 during 2003-04. Mahila mandals basically cover four schemes namely i) Promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals, ii) Mahila mandal sammelans, iii) Incentives/Awards to mahila mandals and iv) Inter-State study tours of mahila mandals

1.2.1 Promotion & Strengthening of Mahila Mandal Scheme:

The mahila mandals do work for the promotion of nutrition, education and immunization of children, women crafts center and small saving accounts of women, smokeless chulhas, provision of bathrooms, food storage, balwadies, family welfare etc. A registered mahila mandal has representatives of all classes of societies and their own selected executive committee. The Women & Child Development Department provides cash grant of Rs.1500/- to the newly registered mahila mandals for providing training to the members, purchase of basic infrastructure items to start some economic activity. A second matching grant of Rs. 750/- can be given to the mahila mandals for some economic activity.

1.2.2 Mahila Mandal Sammelan Scheme:

The registered mahila mandals have been involved in various activities but a little opportunity is available to them to exchange their views outside their village. District and State level sammelans are being organised under the scheme for guiding these mahila mandals. Pardhan (President), Secretary and other executive members of the mahila mandals and officers of different departments visits the sammelans for holding discussions on various programmes being carried out by them for the welfare of rural women.

1.2.3 Incentives/Awards to Mahila Mandals Scheme:

The objective of this scheme is to provide incentives and encouragement to the selected mahila mandals for the good work done by them for the society. The incentive is in the form of cash awards of three categories to provide an encouragement for starting economic activities. Under this scheme, every registered mahila mandal in the State has to select 10 projects for promotion of activities of economic welfare in their village. At the end of the year the block level and district level committees assess the work of each mahila mandal. The mahila mandals which perform good results are placed in any of the three categories namely 'A', 'B' or 'C' and be given cash awards of Rs.2000/-, Rs.1500/- and Rs.1000/- respectively through the Bank Draft.

1.2.4 Inter-State Study Tour of Mahila Mandals:

Under this scheme, 300 outstanding members of mahila mandals of the State visit different States every year to see the implementation of rural schemes in those States. Basic idea of these visits was to give exposure to the rural ladies of the State so that they can also adopt the useful activities, which came through the inter-State study tours. The duration of each tour does not exceed 10 days and the Government provides grant-in-aid for Railway/Bus fare. The expenditure on boarding and lodging is to be met by the beneficiaries themselves.

Planning Department had submitted the State's Annual Plan Proposals for 2003-04 to the Planning Commission, Govt. of India for approval. In this regard, the Planning Commission has suggested that "the State Government should evaluate the impact of activities of mahila mandals". Accordingly, on the request of Women and

Child Development Department, a decision was taken on 26.6.2003 to conduct an evaluation study on the “Impact of Activities of Mahila Mandals” to assess the impact of the schemes of mahila mandals namely promotion & strengthening of mahila mandals scheme, mahila mandal sammelan scheme, incentives/awards to the mahila mandals scheme and inter-State study tour of mahila mandals scheme.

1.3 Objectives of the Evaluation Study:

The main objectives of the Evaluation Study “Impact of Activities of Mahila Mandals” are as under:

- i) To study the promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals.
- ii) To assess the awareness among rural women through mahila mandal sammelan scheme.
- iii) To ascertain the incentives/awards given to the mahila mandals.
- iv) To assess the impact of inter-State study tour on mahila mandals.
- v) To identify the bottlenecks/shortcomings faced in the implementation of the scheme and to suggest corrective measures.

1.4 Methodology and Coverage of the Study:

The study is based on the analysis of primary as well as secondary data both in terms of quality and quantity. The secondary data was collected from the offices of the Director, Women and Child Development Department, Haryana at Chandigarh and the offices of Project Officers, ICDS of Faridabad, Jind, Kurukshetra and Sonapat districts and Statistical Abstracts of Haryana. The primary data was collected from the Pradhan (Secretary), one executive member and 3 non-executive/temporary members of each of the randomly and purposively selected mahila mandals.

Mahila mandals basically cover four schemes i.e. i) Promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals scheme, ii) Mahila mandal sammelans scheme, iii) Incentives/Awards to mahila mandals scheme and iv) Inter-State study tour of mahila mandals scheme. These schemes are being implemented in all the 19 districts of the State. Three stage Multiple Random Sampling Technique was used for sample selection of the evaluation study. First stage was selection of districts, second stage was selection of blocks and third stage was selection of mahila mandals.

1.5 Reference Period:

The requisite secondary data was obtained for a period of three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. The primary data was collected from the pradhan

(Secretary), one executive member and three non-executive members of the mahila mandals for the same three years as of the secondary data. Thus, the reference period for the sample selection was also from 2000-01 to 2002-03.

1.6 Sampling Design:

One district from each of the alphabetically arranged four divisions of the State was randomly selected for the survey. Four selected districts were Faridabad from Gurgaon division, Jind from Hisar division, Kurukshetra from Ambala division and Sonipat from Rohtak division.

Two blocks from each of the selected district taking one block having maximum number of mahila mandals and the second having minimum number of mahila mandals were selected. Eight selected blocks were Palwal & Hodal from Faridabad district, Jind & Alewa from Jind, Thanesar & Babain from Kurukshetra and Gannaur & Kathura from Sonipat district.

To analyse the impact of these schemes on rural women, three mahila mandals were randomly selected from each of the selected blocks. During pre-testing of the survey schedules and sampling it was observed that a few sampled mahila mandals had covered schemes ii), iii) and iv). Therefore, to see the actual impact of these schemes two more mahila mandals from each of the selected blocks were purposively selected. Primary data was collected from one Pradhan, one executive member and three non-executive members of the randomly selected mahila mandals.

Following the above sampling design, 4 Schedule-A were canvassed from four selected districts, 80 Schedule-B were canvassed from 40 Pradhans and 40 executive members of the 40 (24 random and 16 purposively) selected mahila mandals and 120 Schedule-C were canvassed from the non-executive members.

1.7 Tools of the Study:

Three types of schedules were framed for collection of field/district level primary data. Schedule 'A' (Project Schedule) was prepared to canvass from the Programme Officer, ICDS who was looking after the schemes at district level seeking his/her views regarding implementation of the programme in his/her district. Schedule 'B' (Executive Member's Schedule) was designed to be filled in from the Pradhan and one executive member of the selected mahila mandals. Schedule-C (non-executive member's schedule) was framed to be canvassed from the non-executive members of the mahila mandals. All the three schedules i.e. A, B and C were pre-tested in Kurukshetra district. For Schedule-A, the Programme officer, Kurukshetra and his staff were contacted where as Schedule-B and Schedule-C were filled in from Garhi Brahman and Beed Amin Villages of Kurukshetra district.

CHAPTER-II

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Mahila Mandal scheme was started in the State during 1982-83 as a State plan scheme. Initially, it was taken up by the Development and Panchayat Department and later on transferred to Women and Child Development Department during 1992. At present, the scheme covered all the 116 Blocks of the State.

This chapter describes the salient features of the programme based on the information supplied by the Women and Child Development Department, Haryana related to the administrative arrangements made to implement the programme and the progress achieved during the last three years period i.e. from 2000-01 to 2002-03.

2.2 Salient Features of the Mahila Mandals:

Mahila mandals are voluntary organisations of rural women interested in working together with the help of Gram Sevikas, Mukhya Sevikas and Lady Circle Supervisors. Mahila mandal basically aims at empowering rural women and enabling them to reorganise and to improve their socio-economic status. The purpose is to improve access to and control of resources by women. Its objective is the involvement and active participation of rural women in socio-economic activities in the villages. Salient features of the mahila mandals in Haryana are as under.

2.2.1 Schemes Covered Under Mahila Mandal:

Mahila mandals basically cover following four programmes:

A. Promotion & Strengthening of Mahila Mandals Scheme:

The mahila mandals work for promotion of various activities for the benefit of rural women. Some of the activities are related to nutrition, education, immunization of children, women crafts center and small saving accounts of women, smokeless chulhas, provision of bathrooms, food storage, balwadies family welfare etc. The registered mahila mandal has representatives of all classes of societies and their own selected executive committee. The Women & Child Development Department provides grants for the training of 5 members of each mahila mandal for basic equipment and stationary etc. Cash grant of Rs. 1500/- is paid to the newly registered mahila mandals to provide training to the members, to purchase basic infrastructure

items or to start some economic ventures. A second matching grant of Rs. 750/- can be given to the mahila mandals for some economic activity.

B. Mahila Mandal Sammelan Scheme:

The Registered mahila mandals have been involved in various activities but a little opportunity is available to them to exchange their views outside the village. So district and State level sammelans are being organised under the scheme for guiding these mahila mandals. Pardhan, Secretary and other executive members of the mahila mandals and officers of different departments visits the sammelans for holding discussions on various programmes being executed by them for the welfare of rural women.

C. Incentives/Awards to Mahila Mandals Scheme:

The objective of this scheme is to provide incentives to the selected mahila mandal for the good work done by them and to provide a means for starting economic activities. Under this scheme, every registered mahila mandal in the State has to select 10 projects for promotion of economic activities in the village. At the end of the year the block level and district level committees assess the work of each mahila mandal. Those mahila mandals which perform good results are placed in any of the 'A', 'B' or 'C' categories and given cash awards of Rs. 2000/-, Rs. 1500/- and Rs.1000/- for the respective category through the Bank Draft.

D. Inter-State Study Tour of Mahila Mandals Scheme:

Under this scheme, 300 outstanding/best members of mahila mandals of the State can visit different States of the country every year to see the implementation of rural schemes in those States. Basic idea was to give exposure to the rural ladies of the State so that they can also adopt useful activities, which came through the inter-State study tours. The duration of each tour can not exceed 10 days and the Government provides grant-in-aid for Railway/Bus fare. The expenditure on boarding and lodging is to be met by the beneficiaries themselves.

2.2.2 Implementation of the Programme:

The Women & Child Development Department is responsible for the implementation of the programme in the State. Its implementation in the field has been entrusted to the Gram Sevikas, Mukhya Sevikas and Lady Circle Supervisors. They are to keep liaison with the executive members and non-executive members of

the mahila mandals and enable them to reorganise and improve the socio-economic status of the rural women attached to the mahila mandals.

Programme Officer:

The scheme is being looked after by a Programme Officer at district level who is responsible for the allotment of various grants to the mahila mandals, holding sammelans at district level, selection of rural women for the inter-State study tours and to recommend the name of mahila mandals for incentives/awards and other related duties.

Deputy Director:

Deputy Director, Women and Child Development Department at the Headquarter at Chandigarh is coordinating between the Director and district level offices.

2.2.3 Number of Mahila Mandals and Members:

A total of 6713 mahila mandals were found registered in the State during 2000-01. No mahila mandal was established during the next two years. Thus, 6713 registered mahila mandals were found from 2000-01 to 2002-03. Maximum numbers of mahila mandals were found in Gurgaon district (657) followed by Yamuna Nagar (612), Ambala (434), Karnal (421), Kurukshetra (406) and Faridabad (400). Whereas, a minimum of 154 mahila mandals were found in Rohtak district followed by Panipat (168), Fatehabad (216) and Jhajjar (244). Each mahila mandal was having 5 permanent executive member's i.e. Pradhan (President), Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer. In addition to this, about 20 non-executive/temporary members were also a part of the mahila mandals. In general, there was one mahila mandal in a village. The executive members of the mahila mandals were to keep liaison with the implementing agency at district level and organise their meetings in the village whenever required and to keep the records related to mahila mandals. In other words, executive members perform the extension work at village level.

2.2.4 Mahila Mandal Sammelan:

During the period 2000-01 to 2002-03, 19 district level mahila mandal sammelans were held during each year in the State i.e. one district level mahila mandal sammelan in each district every year. Whereas, one State level mahila mandal sammelan was held in Ambala district during 2000-01. An expenditure of

Rs. 1.1 lakh was occurred in the State level mahila mandal sammelan. A sum of Rs. 10000/- was spent for each mahila mandal sammelan at district level during 2000-01 and 2001-02 where as the figure jumped to Rs. 15000/- during 2002-03.

2.2.5 Incentives/Awards :

2.2.5.1 Award-A:

Nineteen awards of 'A' category worth Rs. 2000/- each were given to one mahila mandal from each district of the State during 2001-02. Eighteen awards of 'A' category were presented to all the districts except Panipat during 2000-01 whereas 17 awards were given to all the districts except Kaithal and Sonipat. Not a single mahila mandal in Panipat district during 2000-01 and in Kaithal and Sonipat districts during 2002-03 were found suitable for this award.

2.2.5.2 Award-B:

Two mahila mandals were awarded (with Rs. 1500/- each) from each district during 2000-01 and 2001-02 i.e. 38 awards in total during each year whereas 33 awards of B category were given during 2002-03. No award was given in Kaithal and Sonipat districts while only one mahila mandal was awarded in Panipat district during 2002-03.

2.2.5.3 Award-C:

Forty-seven mahila mandals were awarded under Award-C category of Rs. 1000/- each during 2000-01. Forty-five mahila mandals were awarded during 2001-02 whereas only 40 mahila mandals were awarded during 2002-03. During 2002-03 no mahila mandal was awarded in Kaithal and Sonipat district.

2.2.6 Inter-State Study Tour:

For inter-State study tours the 19 districts were categorised into 6 groups of 3-4 districts each. One district from each group was responsible for organising the inter-State study tours during each year to see the implementation of rural schemes in other States of the country so that some new useful activities may be adopted by the mahila mandals. Six study tours were organised during each year of the study period. During the study period 3 tours were organised by Ambala district, 2 tours were organised by Panipat and Rewari districts whereas only one tour was organised by majority of the districts i.e. Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Hisar, Jhajjar, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendergarh, Rohtak, and Sirsa. On the other hand, Gurgaon, Jind, Panchkula, Sonipat and Yamuna Nagar, districts did not organise any study tour

during 2000-01 to 2002-03. It reveals that the mahila mandals of Ambala, Panipat and Rewari districts were more interested in inter-State study tour.

2.2.7 Physical Targets & Achievements:

The scheme wise physical targets fixed by the department and its achievements during 2000-01 to 2002-03 are shown in the following table.

Table 2.1
Physical targets and achievements during 2000-01 to 2002-03.

Sr. No.	Scheme	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		Total	
		Targets	Ach.	Targets	Ach.	Targets	Ach.	Targets	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Promotion and Strengthening of Mahila Mandals	800	800 (100.00)	800	627 (78.37)	800	444 (55.50)	2400	1871 (75.04)
2.	Mahila Mandal Sammelans Scheme	20	20 (100.00)	20	19 (95.00)	19	19 (100.00)	59	58 (98.30)
3.	Incentives/Awards to Mahila Mandals	102	103 (100.98)	102	102 (100.00)	102	90 (88.24)	306	295 (96.40)
4.	Inter-State-Study Tour of Mahila Mandals	6	6 (100.00)	6	6 (100.00)	6	6 (100.00)	18	18 (100.00)
Total		928	929	928	754	927	559	2783	2172

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

The women & Child Development department fixed targets for promotion and strengthening of 800 mahila mandals during each of the reference year. The department achieved 100 % targets during 2000-01 which declined to 78.37 % (627 mahila mandals) in 2001-02 and was further declined to 55.50 % (444 mahila mandals) during the year 2002-03. A target of organising 20 mahila mandal sammelans was fixed during 2000-01 and 2001-02 and 19 mahila mandal sammelans were to be organised during 2002-03. The target was fully achieved during 2000-01 and 2002-03 but 95 % sammelans were organised (19 against the target of 20) during 2001-02.

The department fixed a target of awarding 102 mahila mandals during each of the reference year. Out of the target of 102 awards, as many as 103 awards

(100.98 %) were given in 2000-01, 102 awards (100 %) were given in 2001-02 and 90 awards (88.24 %) were given in 2002-03.

The department achieved the targets of organising 6 inter-State study tours during each of the reference period.

2.2.8 Financial Outlay and Expenditure:

The schemewise outlay and expenditure (Rs. in lakh) for the mahila mandals as a whole is depicted in the following table.

Table 2.2

Outlay and Expenditure incurred during 2000-01 to 2002-03. (Rs. in Lakh)

Sr. No.	Scheme	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Outlay	Exp.	Outlay	Exp.	Outlay	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Promotion and Strengthening of Mahila Mandals	6.00 (48.39)	6.00 (100.00)	6.00 (48.39)	4.70 (78.33)	6.00 (48.39)	3.33 (55.50)
2.	Mahila Mandal Sammelans Scheme	3.00 (24.19)	3.00 (100.00)	3.00 (24.19)	1.90 (63.33)	3.00 (24.19)	2.85 (95.00)
3.	Incentives/Awards to Mahila Mandals	1.40 (11.29)	1.40 (100.00)	1.40 (11.29)	1.40 (100.00)	1.40 (11.29)	1.24 (88.57)
4.	Inter-State-Study Tours of Mahila Mandals	2.00 (16.13)	1.80 (90.00)	2.00 (16.13)	1.98 (99.00)	2.00 (16.13)	1.98 (99.00)
Total		12.40 (100.00)	12.20 (98.39)	12.40 (100.00)	9.98 (80.48)	12.40 (100.00)	9.40 (75.81)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Scheme wise outlay component remained the same for the period 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03. Rs. 6.0 lakh was kept for promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals scheme, Rs. 3.00 lakh was kept for mahila mandal sammelans scheme, Rs. 1.40 lakh was kept for incentives/awards to mahila mandals and Rs. 2.00 lakh was allotted for Inter-State study tour scheme during each of the study year. Thus, a total sum of Rs. 12.40 lakh was the outlay for the mahila mandals as a whole during each of the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

The department utilised 100 % of the outlay kept for promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals scheme during 2000-01 which gradually decreased to 78.33 % during 2001-02 and 55.5% during 2002-03. Expenditure on mahila mandal sammelans scheme was 100 % of its outlay during 2000-01, which surprisingly declined to 63.33 % in 2001-02 but increased to 95 % in 2002-03. The department utilised total amount of the outlay kept for the incentives/awards to mahila mandals scheme during 2000-01 and 2001-02 whereas the figure decreased to 88.57 % in 2002-03. During 2000-01, only 90 % of the outlay for the inter-State study tour scheme was expended. The figure further increased to 99 % each in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Out of the total outlay of Rs.12.40 lakh, the promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals component occupied major share (48.39 %) followed by mahila mandal sammelans scheme (24.19 %), inter-State study tour scheme (16.13 %) and incentive/awards to mahila mandals scheme (11.29 %). During 2000-01, 98.39 % of the total outlay for the mahila mandals was utilised. The figure gradually decreased to 80.48 % in 2001-02 and 75.81 % in 2002-03.

CHAPTER-III

FIELD SAMPLE SURVEY

To assess the performance and impact of the activities and schemes of Mahila Mandals being implemented by the Women and Child Development Department in Haryana, a field sample survey was conducted in 40 selected villages of 8 selected blocks of 4 selected districts namely Faridabad, Jind, Kurukshetra and Sonapat. The detailed criteria for the selection of districts, blocks, mahila mandals/villages, executive members and non-executive members of the mahila mandals have already been described in Chapter-I. In total, 200 schedules have been filled in from the members of the randomly and purposively selected mahila mandals to assess the functioning and impact of the schemes considering 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 (3 years) as the reference period. List of the selected districts, blocks, villages and number of members of randomly and purposively selected villages is presented in the following table:

Table 3.1

Detail of districts, blocks and villages selected for field survey.

Sr. No.	District	Block	Randomly selected villages		Purposively selected villages	
			Name of Village	No. of Members	Name of Village	No. of Members
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Faridabad	1. Palwal	1. Tatarpur	5	1.Karna	5
			2. Bhagola	5	2.Alapur	5
			3. Thanthari	5		
		2. Hodal	1. Sevli	5	1. Bharola	5
			2. Boraka	5	2. Bamni Khera	5
			3. Nangati Ahsanpur	5		
2.	Jind	1. Jind	1. Barsana	5	1. Bishanpura	5
			2. Nidani	5	2. Bibi Pur	5
			3. Radhana	5		
		2. Alewa	1. Thua	5	1. Chuharpur	5
			2. Sandil	5	2. Khanda	5
			3. Nagura	5		

3. Kurukshetra	1.Thanesar	1.Keinthla	5	1. Kirmach	5	
		2. Umri	5		2. Indbari	5
		3. Khanpur Rodhan	5			
	2. Babain	1.Phalsadi	5	1. Bink	5	
		2. Tatki	5		2. Bhagwan Pur	5
		3. Ram Nagar	5			
4. Sonipat	1. Ganaur	1. Bhawar	5	1. Teha	5	
		2. Ram Nagar	5		2. Kami	5
		3. Bubeta	5			
	2. Kathura	1. Kathura	5	1. Rindhana	5	
		2. Dhanana	5		2. Banwasa	5
		3. Bhawar	5			

Total	4	8	24	120	16	80
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3.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Executive Members:

Schedule-B was canvassed from two executive members (one Pradhan and second any other executive member) of each of the mahila mandal. Thus, 20 executive members from each of the selected Districts and 80 in total (48 i.e. 60 % from randomly selected mahila mandals and 32 i.e. 40 % from purposively selected mahila mandals) were contacted.

The socio-economic description of these executive members is as follows:

3.2.1 Educational Status of the Executive Members:

Educational status of the executive members of the selected mahila mandals covered under the field survey is given in table 3.2.1.

The data reveals that out of 80 selected executive members of the mahila mandals, 44 (55 %) were illiterate and 36 (45 %) were literate. Out of 36 literate, 22 (61.12 %) were primary pass, 7 (19.44 %) were middle pass and 7 (19.44 %) were matriculates. None of the selected executive member was above matric.

Table 3.2.1

Educational status of the executive members of the mahila mandals.

(in Numbers)

Sr. No.	Distt.	Illi-terate	Literate			Sub Total	Total
			Primary	Middle	Matric		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	10	5	3	2	10	20
2.	Jind	14	3	2	1	6	20
3.	Kurukshetra	10	8	1	1	10	20
4.	Sonipat	10	6	1	3	10	20
Total		44 (55.00)	22 (61.12)	7 (19.44)	7 (19.44)	36 (100.00)	80 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

3.2.2 Caste-wise Status of the Executive Members:

The castewise status of the sampled executive members of the mahila mandals is presented in the following table:

Table 3.2.2

Classification of executive members according to castes category (in Numbers).

Sr. No.	Distt.	SC	BC	Other	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Faridabad	2	8	10	20
2.	Jind	3	4	13	20
3.	Kurukshetra	1	7	12	20
4.	Sonipat	-	4	16	20
Total		6 (7.50)	23 (28.75)	51 (63.75)	80 (100)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

There was no any pre-decided criteria for the caste-wise appointment of the executive members in the mahila mandals. Out of 80 sampled executive members, only 6 (7.50 %) belonged to the scheduled castes, 23 (28.75 %) were from backward classes and as many as 51 (63.75 %) were from other category. It shows that the women belonging to the scheduled castes category were having very less representation in the executive committee of the mahila mandals.

3.2.3 Agewise Status of the Executive Members:

The sampled executive members of mahila mandals classified according to age are presented in the following table:

Table 3.2.3

Classification of the executive members of mahila mandals according to age.
(in Years)

Sr. No.	Distt.	Below 25	25-34	35-49	50-59	60-69	70 & above	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Faridabad	-	3	6	8	2	1	20
2.	Jind	-	2	5	3	9	1	20
3.	Kurukshetra	-	-	7	9	2	2	20
4.	Sonipat	-	2	9	3	6	-	20
Total		-	7	27	23	19	4	80
		(0.00)	(8.75)	(33.75)	(28.75)	(23.75)	(5.00)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

The sampled executive members were categorised in six age groups namely below 25 years, 25-34 years, 35-49 years, 50-59 years, 60-69 years and above 70 years. Out of 80 executive members, a maximum of 27 (33.75 %) belonged to 35-49 years age group, followed by 23 (28.75 %) from 50-59 years, 19 (23.75 %) were from 60-69 years, 7 (8.75 %) were from 25-34 years and 4 (5 %) were from above 70 years age group whereas none was below 25 years.

3.2.4 Length of Postwise Status of the Executive Members:

The sampled executive members of mahila mandals classified according to the length of posts are presented in the following table:

Table 3.2.4

Classification of the executive members of mahila mandals according to length of posts held.

Sr. No.	Distt.	Up to 1985	1986-90	1991-95	1996-2000	2000 onwards	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	7	8	4	-	1	20
2.	Jind	3	11	4	2	-	20
3.	Kurukshetra	-	9	6	3	2	20
4.	Sonipat	5	3	2	9	1	20
Total		15 (18.75)	31 (38.75)	16 (20.00)	14 (17.50)	4 (5.00)	80 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

It was observed that out of 80 executive members, as much as 31 (38.75 %) were holding the post since 1986-90, followed by 16 (20 %) holding since 1991-95, 15 (18.75 %) since 1985 and 14 (17.50 %) were holding since 1996-2000. Only 4 (5 %) were holding posts from 2000 onwards. This implies that majority i.e. 47 (58.75 %) of the executive members of the scheme were holding their posts since the last 9-19 years.

3.3 Location of Surveyed Mahila Mandals:

Location of offices of the sampled mahila mandals is presented in table 3.3.

Table reveals that most of the mahila mandals i.e. 36 out of 40 (90 %) were operated from the house of Pradhan where as 2 (5 %) each were running from Government and private buildings. It shows that the state government did not provide proper place to most of the mahila mandals to operate their activities in their villages.

Table 3.3

Location of surveyed mahila mandal offices.

Sr. No.	Distt.	In Pardhan House	In Govt. Building	In Pvt. Building	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Faridabad	10	-	-	10
2.	Jind	10	-	-	10
3.	Kurukshetra	6	2	2	10
4.	Sonipat	10	-	-	10
Total		36 (90)	2 (5)	2 (5)	40 (100)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

3.4 Classification of Mahila Mandals According to the Period of Establishment:

The sampled mahila mandals classified according to the period of establishment is presented in the following table:

Table 3.4

Classification of mahila mandals according to period of establishment.

Sr. No.	Distt.	At the time of inception	1987-90	1991-95	1996-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Faridabad	6	2	2	-	10
2.	Jind	1	6	3	-	10
3.	Kurukshetra	7	3	-	-	10
4.	Sonipat	3	3	2	2	10
Total		17 (42.50)	14 (35.00)	7 (17.50)	2 (5.00)	40 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

The data shows that most of the sampled mahila mandals i.e. 17 out of 40 (42.50 %) were in operation since the inception of the scheme. Fourteen (35 %) mahila mandals were in operation since 1987-90, followed by 7 (17.50 %) mahila mandals from 1991-95 and 2 (5 %) mahila mandals since 1995-2000.

3.5 Mahila Mandal Sabha (meeting):

There is a provision of conducting 'sabha/meeting' with the help of ICDS staff at village level to train the members of the mahila mandals. Mahila mandal sabha (meeting) conducted during different periods are shown in the table given below.

Table 3.5

Number of mahila mandals who called sabha during January-December, 2003.

Sr. No.	Distt.	Duration of sabha						Total
		2 months	2-3 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	Yearly	Notcalled	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Faridabad	1	7	-	1	-	1	10
2.	Jind	2	3	-	5	-	-	10
3.	Kurukshetra	1	1	1	7	-	-	10
4.	Sonipat	4	3	-	3	-	-	10
Total		8	14	1	16	-	1	40
		(20.00)	(35.00)	(2.00)	(40.00)	(0.00)	(2.50)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

It was observed that most of the mahila mandals i. e. 16 (40 %) called sabha after 5-6 months followed by 14 (35 %) mahila mandals called sabha at 2-3 months interval, 8 (20 %) mahila mandals called sabha within 2 months and one mahila mandal called sabha at 4-5 months interval. Where as one mahila mandal of Faridabad district did not call any sabha during the year 2003.

3.6 Views of Executive Members Regarding Mahila Mandal Sabha:

3.6.1 Views of the executive members regarding increase in personal contact, social work and community welfare is shown in table 3.6.

Table 3.6

Views of executive members regarding increase in personal contact, social work and community welfare in Yes or No.

Sr.No.	Distt	Yes	No	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	18	2	20
2.	Jind	16	4	20
3.	Kurukshetra	20	-	20
4.	Sonipat	17	3	20
Total		71 (88.75)	9 (11.25)	80 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Above table shows that 71 (88.75 %) executive members were of the opinion that the mahila mandals play an important role in developing the personal contact among the rural women of the region. They also admitted that a number of social work could be done for the village with the help of mahila mandal sabha, which resulted in the welfare of the community as a whole. Where as 9 (11.25 %) executive members were not impressed by the mahila mandals and said that mahila mandals did not have much impact on developing the personal contact, social work and community welfare.

3.6.2 Adoption of the Activities at Home:

Executive members adopted few or more activities at their home, which were taught in the mahila mandal sabhas, Adoption level of the activities among the executive members is shown in table 3.7.

Table 3.7

Classification of executive members who adopted activities at their home.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Adopted	Not Adopted	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	18	2	20
2.	Jind	20	-	20
3.	Kurukshetra	20	-	20
4.	Sonipat	19	1	20
Total		77 (96.25)	3 (3.75)	80 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Data shows that as many as 77 (96.25 %) executive members adopted few or more activities at home, which were taught under various schemes through the mahila mandal sabha. Where as 3 (3.75 %) executive members did not adopted the activities.

3.7 Views of Executive Members Regarding Funds/Grants Utilisation and its Sufficiency for Mahila Mandals:

Views of the executive members of the sampled mahila mandals regarding utilisation of funds received from the Govt./Deptt. to conduct various types of training/sabha and its sufficiency is shown in table 3.8.

Table 3.8

Views of the executive members regarding utilisation of funds & its sufficiency.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Funds Utilised	Funds Not Utilised	Total	Sufficient	Not Sufficient	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	14 (70)	6 (30)	20	2 (10)	18 (90)	20
2.	Jind	6 (30)	14 (70)	20	10 (50)	10 (50)	20
3.	Kurukshetra	20 (100)	0 (0)	20	1 (5)	19 (95)	20
4.	Sonipat	6 (30)	14 (70)	20	8 (40)	12 (60)	20
Total		46 (57.50)	34 (42.50)	80	21 (26.25)	59 (73.75)	80 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Surprisingly, 6 executive members of Faridabad district, 14 of Jind and 14 of Sonipat reported that they did not utilise the grant received for their mahila mandals. Rest of the members i.e. 14 of Faridabad, 6 of Jind, 6 of Sonipat and 20 of Kurukshetra districts intimated that the grant was utilised in their mahila mandals by purchasing various items such as dari, utensils (cups, glasses, plates, patila, jug, etc.), crockery, tables, chairs, fans, cloths, etc. which were further used by the villagers on hiring basis. The money earned was utilised for purchasing fresh items. Majority of the mahila mandals in Kurukshetra (95 %), Faridabad (90 %) and Sonipat (65 %) districts were not satisfied with the existing grant/amount and the rest were satisfied. Half of the executive members in Jind district answered in negative about its sufficiency. In total, 59 (73.75 %) executive members said that the fund supplied to them was not sufficient and only 21 (26.25 %) answered in positive about its sufficiency. Most of the executive members have requested the concerned officers/officials to increase the grants at least two to four times of the provision because the prevailing amount was very less to increase their source of income.

3.8 Mahila Mandal Sammelan Scheme:

District and State level sammelans are being organised under the scheme for guiding executive as well as non-executive members of mahila mandals. Limited (2-3) members from most of the mahila mandals especially Pardhan and/or other executive members and officers of different departments are being invited to attend the sammelans. Both sides bus fare, refreshment and some gift items are also being provided to the members of the mahila mandals who attend the sammelan. Experts from various departments provide training to the members by holding discussion on various programmes being carried out under the mahila mandal scheme. This is a sort of transfer of technology from lab to land. Here experts are the extension workers who elaborate/demonstrate various new activities to the representatives of the mahila mandals so that it can be popular among them and help in improving their socio as well as economic condition.

3.8.1 Visits to the Mahila Mandal Sammelans:

Number of visits made by the sampled executive members to the mahila mandal sammelans during different periods are given in the table given below.

Table 3.9

Periodwise visits made by the executive members to the mahila mandal sammelan.

Sr.No.	Distt.	No. of members	Number of visits				Total
			Before2000-01	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	5	-	1	3	1	5
2.	Jind	15	4	5	5	6	20
3.	Kurukshetra	11	1	4	4	2	11
4.	Sonipat	14	9	1	-	6	16
Total		45 (56.25)	14 (26.92)	11 (21.15)	12 (23.08)	15 (28.85)	52 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages to total.

Above table shows that out of 80 sampled executive members of the mahila mandals, only 45 (56.25 %) visited the mahila mandal sammelans till the date of data

collection and the rest never visited any sammelan. These, 45 executive members made 52 visits to the sammelans. Out of 52 visits, the sampled executive members made 15 (28.85 %) visits during 2002-2003, 12 (23.08 %) visits were made during 2001-2002 and 11 (21.15 %) visits were made during 2000-2001. On the other hand, only 14 (26.92 %) visits were made before 2000-2001. It implies that the executive members of the mahila mandals have shown increasing interest in the recent years about the mahila mandal sammelans.

3.8.2 Views of the Executive Members who Attended the Sammelans:

The executive members of the mahila mandals who attended the mahila mandal sammelans were supposed to convey the activities explained in the sammelans to other members so that they may also adopt and take the benefits of these techniques.

Table 3.10

Executive members who told activities of sammelan to other members and adopted these activities at their home.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Explained	Not Explained	Total	Adopted	Not Adopted	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	5	-	5	5	-	5
2.	Jind	15	-	15	15	-	15
3.	Kurukshetra	11	-	11	11	-	11
4.	Sonipat	12	2	14	14	-	14
Total		43 (95.55)	2 (4.45)	45 (100.00)	45 (100.00)	- (0.00)	45 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Data of the table reveals that 43 (95.55%) executive members explained the knowledge gained in the sammelans to other members of the mahila mandals where as 2 (4.45 %) did not explain it to others. It may be concluded that as many as 43 (95.55 %) were taking interest in expending the benefits received in the sammelans. It was found that all the 45(100 %) sampled executive members who had visited the sammelans adopted some or more activities at their home.

3.8.3 Opinion of the Executive Members Regarding Income Generation and Difficulties in Attending Sammelan:

Table 3.11

Opinion of the executive members regarding income generation and difficulty in attending sammelan.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Whether generating income?			Whether faced difficulty?		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	-	5	5	-	5	5
2.	Jind	-	15	15	1	14	15
3.	Kurukshetra	4	7	11	-	11	11
4.	Sonipat	2	12	14	-	14	14
Total		6	39	45	1	44	45
		(13.33)	(86.67)	(100.00)	(2.22)	(97.78)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Above table reveals that out of 45 executive members who attended the sammelans, 39 (86.67 %) were of the opinion that the mahila mandal sammelans were not playing any important role in generating income. Only 6 (13.33 %) intimated that these sammelans helped in generating their income. It implies that the mahila mandal sammelan scheme does not have any major impact on the improvement of the economic condition of the rural ladies. Table also shows that all the sampled executive members who visited the sammelans were found satisfied with the arrangements made in the sammelans and one of them reported difficulty faced by him while attending the sammelans.

3.9 Incentives/Awards to Mahila Mandals:

3.9.1 District Wise Mahila Mandals Awarded during the Study Period:

In response to the criteria fixed for selection of the mahila mandals for awards all the sampled executive members replied that the District/State level committee selected the mahila mandals as per the instructions issued by the concerned department. They further elaborated that award 'A' was given to that mahila mandal

who score more than 80 % in their evaluation. The mahila mandal who scores between 70-80 % was kept under 'B' category where as for award 'C' the criteria was between 60-70 %. Number of mahila mandals who received the awards of 'A', 'B' and/or 'C' category during each year of the study period and before the study period are presented in the following table:

Table No. 3.12

Classification of mahila mandals according to different category of awards.

Sr. No.	Distt.	Before 2000-01				2000-01				2001-02				2002-03				Total			
		A	B	C	Other	A	B	C	Other	A	B	C	Other	A	B	C	Other	A	B	C	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1.	F.bad	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	1
2.	Jind	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	2	2
3.	Kuruk.	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
4.	Sonipat	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1
Total		1	-	6	2	-	3	-	1	-	1	2	1	1	-	4	-	2	4	12	4

Data shows that the sampled mahila mandals received maximum number of 'C' category awards, followed by 'B' and 'A' categories. Two awards of category 'A' were given. One was given to a mahila mandal of Jind district in 2002-03 due to 100 % coverage of Improved Chulha Scheme, active participation in fruit tree plantation and opening of small saving accounts and combined efforts of their members against the 'dowry' and 'parda pratha' in their village. Other award was given to a mahila mandal of Sonipat district during 1995 mainly for 10 cases of family planning, encouraging rural women for small savings and kitchen gardening. One sampled mahila mandal of Jind and 3 of Kurukshetra districts were given 'B' category award (a total of 4 'B' category awards were given) during the study period for their contribution towards installation of improved chulha, fruit tree plantation, immunisation, family planning, child education, prohibition of wine and under-age marriages of girls. They were also actively involved in opening of R. D. accounts, making use of dustbins and a couple of family planning cases.

Data also shows that 5 mahila mandals of Faridabad, 4 mahila mandals of Sonipat, 2 of Jind and one of Kurukshetra districts (12 mahila mandals in total) received 'C' category awards (Rs. 1000/- each) for their active participation in installation of improved chulha, food grain storage, fruit tree plantation, opening of

small saving accounts, adoption of modern technology of grain storage, campaigning for wine prohibition, discouraging under-age marriage of girls and local manufacturing of baam. In addition to the above 3 categories, 4 mahila mandals also received incentives/awards from the local administration either in terms of cash worth Rs. 1000/- or Rs. 715/- or in kind viz. pressure cookers/sewing machines/utensils for their active participation in small savings, family planning and cleanliness movement of village streets.

3.9.2 Executive Member's Opinion Regarding Awards:

The executive members of a couple of mahila mandals were not satisfied with the existing selection procedure of mahila mandals for giving awards. According to them, the authority or their representatives were not visiting each mahila mandal before the selection for the award. Therefore, at least one comprehensive visit should be made by the selection committee to collect the detailed information regarding the activities performed by each mahila mandal and their selection for award should be unbiased. Channel should be short and P.O., ICDS should be given more power for finalising the awards. The selection committee should make frequent visits and the criteria for assessment of mahila mandals for awards and the procedure should be simple and transparent. They also suggested to increase the number of awards.

3.10 Inter-State Study Tour:

3.10.1 Categorywise Participant of the Inter-State Study Tour:

Table 3.13

Categorywise executive members who attended inter-State study tour.

Sr. No.	Distt.	Attended				Not attended	Total
		SC	BC	Others	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	-	-	2	2	18	20
2.	Jind	2	1	3	6	14	20
3.	Kurukshetra	-	-	5	5	15	20
4.	Sonipat	-	-	4	4	16	20
Total		2	1	14	17	63	80
		(12.50)	(6.25)	(82.35)	(21.25)	(78.75)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

It was found from the survey that 63 (78.75 %) sampled executive members did not attend any inter-State study tour. Out of 17 (21.25 %) executive members who attended such tours, 3 (18.75 %) were from SC/BC category. It implies that ladies from this section of the rural society, which was earlier a reluctant one in taking such a bold step, are coming forward to take exposure.

3.10.2 Awareness about the Inter-State Study Tour:

Table 3.14

Executive member's awareness about inter-State study tour.

Sr.No.	Distt	Yes	No	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	18	2	20
2.	Jind	20	0	20
3.	Kurukshetra	18	2	20
4.	Sonipat	15	5	20
Total		71 (88.75)	9 (11.25)	80 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

It was surprising to observe during the survey that out of 80 executive members, only 71 (88.75 %) were aware of the inter-State study tour scheme of the mahila mandal and the remaining 9 (11.25 %) were not much familiar with it. This was due to lack of education among the rural women and social structure prevailing in the villages do not allow young ladies to go alone outside the State for a longer period of about 10 days. It also reflects lack of leadership qualities of the female in the male dominated rural society as ladies are generally not allowed to take such decisions at their own which ultimately spoil their interest to think about this programme.

Most of the sampled executive members who attended the inter-State study tour were more or less aware of the criteria for selection of members for attending such tours. Some executive members who did not attend inter-State study tour showed their interest to participate in these tours, as they have never been asked/intimated about it.

3.10.3 Executive Member’s Opinion Regarding Inter-State Study Tour:

It was observed that the tour arranged during the study period for the religious places such as Vaishno Devi Mandir (Katra), Anandpur Sahib, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura, Vrindavan, Ayodhya, Bala ji and Manikaran Sahib were more popular among the executive members/temporary members of the mahila mandals as compared to site seeing places like Bhakhara Dam, Mussorie, Dehradun, Agra, Chandigarh, Patiala, Sunder Nagar, Roop Nagar, Gobindgarh, Fatehpur Sikri, Allahabad, Banaras, Lakhnow, Shimla, Kullo Manali, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Ajmer and other places of economic activities.

They were either provided a tourist bus or actual bus/train fair for such type of tours. A lump sum amount was collected by the in-charge of the tour from each of the members before the start of the tour so that collective expenditure on food, stay arrangements etc. could be made. Almost all the members confirmed that there was no provision of caste-wise priority for the selection of mahila mandal members to attend the inter-State study tour. Each member of the mahila mandal was having equal chance to participate irrespective of her cast.

3.10.4 Views of Executive Members About Economic Benefits of the Inter-State Study Tour:

Table 3.15

Views of executive members about economic benefits of the inter-State study tour.

Sr.	Distt.	Attended			Not Attended	Total
		Yes	No	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Faridabad	-	2	2	18	20
2.	Jind	3	3	6	14	20
3.	Kurukshetra	-	5	5	15	20
4.	Sonipat	1	3	4	16	20
Total		4	13	17	63	80
		(23.53)	(76.47)	(21.25)	(78.75)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Table reveals that out of 17 executive member who attended the inter-state study tour, only 4 (23.53 %) were of the opinion that it was helpful in generating economic activities where as 13 (76.47 %) replied that these tours were not helpful in generating economic activities. This was due to more emphasis given on visiting the religious/historical places where as less attention was given on learning the income generating activities which may be helpful in improving their economic condition.

Those executive members who availed the benefit of these tours were interested to be selected again for the next tour even with the facilities prevailing in the scheme as it provided rare facility to visit the distant places about which they have even not heard. In addition to this, the general opinion was that the tour duration of 10 days was too long and it should be of 5-6 days only because it was very difficult for the rural women to leave their family for such a long time. They further suggested that at least ten members from each block should be chosen for these tours and government should bear all the expenses such as tickets for site seeing, food and expenses on their stay.

3.11 Rating of Mahila Mandals by the Executive Members:

The executive members were asked to express their views to rate the mahila mandals under any of the 5 categories namely very good, good, satisfactory, poor and not useful on the basis of their own experience.

Table 3.16

Views of executive members about the mahila mandal scheme as a whole.

Sr. No.	Distt.	Very Good	Good	Satis- factory	Poor	Not useful	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	-	6	9	5	-	20
2.	Jind	-	4	5	6	5	20
3.	Kurukshetra	1	12	4	3	-	20
4.	Sonipat	-	2	7	3	8	20
Total		1 (1.25)	24 (30.00)	25 (31.25)	17 (21.25)	13 (16.25)	80 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Table 3.16 shows that out of 80 sampled executive members, as many as 25 (31.25 %) rated the scheme as ‘satisfactory’ followed by ‘good’ category viewed by 24 (30 %) members. 17 (21.25 %) executive members kept the scheme under ‘poor’ category and 13 (16.25 %) under ‘not useful’ category. Whereas only 1 (1.25 %) named it as very good. In a nutshell, 50 (62.50 %) gave favorable remarks about the mahila mandal as a whole whereas 30 (37.50 %) gave adverse remarks.

3.12 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Non-Executive Members:

Schedule-C was filled in from 3 non-executive members of each of the selected mahila mandals. Thus, 30 non-executive members from each of the selected district and 120 members in total were contacted for analysing the impact of mahila mandal. The socio-economic description of the sampled non-executive members is as follows:

3.12.1 Educational Status of the Non-Executive Members:

Educational status of the surveyed non-executive members of the mahila mandals is in the table given below.

Table 3.17

Educational status of the non-executive members of the mahila mandals.

(in Numbers)

Sr. No.	Distt.	Illiterate	Literate			Sub Total	Grand Total
			Primary	Middle	Matric		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	26	5	-	-	4	30
2.	Jind	18	7	3	2	12	30
3.	Kurukshetra	12	11	5	2	18	30
4.	Sonipat	16	8	3	3	14	30
Total		71	31	11	7	49	120
		(59.17)	(63.26)	(22.44)	(14.28)	(40.83)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

The data revealed that out of 120 non-executive members of the selected mahila mandals, as many as 71 (59.17 %) were illiterate and 49 (40.83 %) were literate. Out of 49 literates, 31 (63.26 %) were up to primary, 11 (22.44 %) were up to middle and the remaining 7 (14.28 %) were matriculates. None of the selected members was above matric.

3.12.2 Caste-wise Status of the Mahila Mandal Members:

The caste-wise status of the sampled members of the mahila mandals is presented in the following table:

Table 3.18

Classification of non-executive members according to their castes.

Sr. No.	Distt.	SC	BC	Other	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Faridabad	7	13	10	30
2.	Jind	3	6	21	30
3.	Kurukshetra	2	15	13	30
4.	Sonipat	3	5	22	30
Total		15	39	66	120
		(12.50)	(32.50)	(55.00)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Out of 120 sampled members, only 15 (12.50 %) belong to the scheduled castes, 39 (32.50 %) were from backward classes and 66 (55 %) were from other category. Likewise the executive members, non-executive members belonging to scheduled castes category were having very less representation in the mahila mandals.

3.12.3 Age-wise Status of the Non-Executive Members:

The sampled non-executive members of mahila mandals were categorised according to six age groups namely below 25 years, 25-34 years, 35-49 years, 50-59 years, 60-69 years and above 70 years are presented in table 3.19.

Table 3.19

Age-wise status of the non-executive mahila mandal members. (in Numbers)

Sr.No.	Distt.	Below 25	25-34	35-49	50-59	60-69	Above 70	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Faridabad	-	4	13	10	1	2	30
2.	Jind	1	4	14	5	6	-	30
3.	Kurukshetra	1	4	15	2	6	2	30
4.	Sonipat	-	2	16	4	6	2	30
Total		2 (1.67)	14 (11.67)	58 (48.33)	21 (17.50)	19 (15.83)	6 (5.00)	120 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Data reveals that out of 120 non-executive mahila mandal members, a maximum of 58 (48.33 %) belong to 35-49 years age group, followed by 21 (17.50%) from 50-59 years, 19 (15.83 %) from 60-69 years, 14 (11.67 %) from 25-34 years, 6 (5 %) from above 70 years category and 2 (1.67 %) were from below 25 years age groups. Participation of very old and very young age groups was very less as compared to the mature age women.

3.13 Views of Non-Executive Members Regarding Mahila Mandal Sabha:

3.13.1 Views of the non-executive members regarding mahila mandal sabha/meeting whether helpful in increasing personal contact, social work and community welfare is shown in table 3.20.

Table 3.20

Views of mahila mandal non-executive members regarding increasing personal contact, social work and community welfare.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Helpful	Not helpful	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	27	3	30
2.	Jind	21	9	30
3.	Kurukshetra	27	3	30
4.	Sonipat	21	9	30
Total		96 (80.00)	24 (20.00)	120 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Data reveals that 96 (80 %) non-executive members admitted that the mahila mandal sabha plays an important role in developing the personal contact among the rural women of the region because a number of social work can be done in the village resulted in welfare of the community as a whole, where as 24 (20 %) members were not impressed and said that the mahila mandals do not have much impact on developing the personal contact, social work and community welfare.

3.13.2 Mahila Mandal Members who Attended Sabha (Meeting):

Table 3.21

Classification of non-executive members who attended Sabha.

Sr.No	Distt.	Attended	Not attended	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	27	3	30
2.	Jind	28	2	30
3.	Kurukshetra	29	1	30
4.	Sonipat	26	4	30
Total		110 (91.67)	10 (8.33)	120 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Table shows that out of 120 non-executive sampled members, 110 (91.67 %) attended one or more mahila mandal sabhas. On the other hand, 10 (8.33 %) members did not attend any of the mahila mandal sabha. It implies that at least 8.33% members were not interested in attending the mahila mandal sabha were due to their priority towards the household activities. It seems that their names were there only to complete the list for the requirement of the mahila mandal.

3.14 Mahila Mandal Sammelan:

3.14.1 Members of the Mahila Mandals who had attended Sammelan:

Mahila mandal members who attended the mahila mandal sammelan at Block/ Distt./State level are presented in the following table:

Table No. 3.22

Mahila mandal members who had attended sammelan at Block/Distt./State level.

Sr.No.	Distt.	No. of Members	Number of visits				Total
			Before 2000-01	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	5	-	-	4	1	5
2.	Jind	11	6	2	-	6	14
3.	Kurukshetra	8	-	4	4	1	9
4.	Sonipat	18	16	2	6	-	24
Total		42 (35.00)	22 (42.30)	8 (15.38)	14 (26.92)	8 (15.38)	52 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Table shows that out of 120 sampled non-executive members of the mahila mandals, only 42 (35 %) had attended the mahila mandal sammelans and the rest 78 (65 %) never visited any sammelan. In total, 42 members made 52 visits. Out of 52 visits, 22 (42.30 %) were made before 2000-2001 followed by 14 visits during 2001-2002 and 8 (15.38 %) were made during each of the year 2000-01 and 2002-03. The non-executive members of Faridabad district did not visit any sammelan for two consecutive years i.e. 2000-01 & 2001-02.

3.14.2 Awareness about Mahila Mandal Sammelan Scheme:

Table 3.23

Awareness of non-executive members about mahila mandal sammelans.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Aware	Not Aware	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	27	3	30
2.	Jind	30	-	30
3.	Kurukshetra	27	3	30
4.	Sonipat	26	4	30
Total		110 (91.67)	10 (8.33)	120 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

It was surprising to observe that out of 120 members, only 110 (91.67 %) were aware of the sammelan scheme (Table 3.23) and the remaining 10 (8.33 %) were not familiar about it. It also supports the conclusion made on the previous page that at least 8 % members were not interested in attending the mahila mandal sammelan due to their priority towards the household activities and their names were there only to complete the list for the requirement of the mahila mandal.

3.14.3 Views of Non-Executive Members who had Attended Sammelans:

The members of the mahila mandals who attended the mahila mandal sammelans were supposed to convey the activities explained in the sammelans to other members so that they may also adopt and take the benefits of these techniques. Following table shows the non-executive members who explained the sammelan scheme to others and their adoption level.

Table 3.24

Non-executive members who told the sammelan scheme to others and their adoption.

Sr.	Distt.	Explained	Not Explained	Total	Adopted	Not adopted	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	5	-	5	5	-	5
2.	Jind	9	2	11	11	-	11
3.	Kurukshetra	7	1	8	8	-	8
4.	Sonipat	18	-	18	18	-	18
Total		39	3	42	42	-	42
		(92.85)	(7.15)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(-)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Table reveals that out of 42 non-executive members who visited sammelan, as many as 39 (92.85 %) members explained the techniques to other members and shared the knowledge gained in the sammelans with the other members of the mahila mandals where as 3 (7.15 %) did not share the knowledge with the others. It was also observed that all the 42 sampled members who had visited the sammelans adopted few or more techniques at their home. It may be concluded that most of the members who had visited the sammelans were taking personal interest in expending the benefits of the scheme in the village.

3.14.4 Opinion of Non-Executive Members Regarding Difficulties:

Opinion of non-executive members who visited the sammelans regarding difficulties faced while attending sammelans is shown in the following table:

Table 3.25

Views of members regarding their satisfaction with the arrangements in sammelan.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	5	-	5
2.	Jind	11	-	11
3.	Kurukshetra	8	-	8
4.	Sonipat	15	3	18
Total		39 (92.85)	3 (7.15)	42 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Above table shows that out of 42 non-executive sampled members who visited sammelans, 39 (92.85 %) expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements made in the sammelans and did not face any difficulty while attending the sammelans. On the other hand, 3 (7.15 %) reported that the arrangements made in the sammelans were not satisfactory. They reported that over all arrangement especially the sitting and refreshment part was not up to the desired level due to excess participation of rural women resulted in shortage of space and refreshment material. Therefore, it requires better planning in organising the sammelans.

3.15 Inter-State Study Tour:

3.15.1 Inter-State Study Tours During Different Period:

Period wise classification of non-executive sampled members who attended the inter-State study tour is shown in the following table:

Table 3.26

Members who attended inter-State study tour during different period.

Sr.No.	Distt.	No. of Members	Number of visits				Total
			Before 2000-01	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	3	-	-	3	-	3
2.	Jind	2	-	1	1	-	2
3.	Kurukshetra	1	-	-	-	1	1
4.	Sonipat	9	4	-	4	1	9
Total		15 (12.50)	4 (26.67)	1 (6.67)	8 (53.33)	2 (13.33)	15 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Data shows that out of 120 non-executive sampled members, only 15 (12.50 %) had visited the inter-State study tour till the date of survey and the rest 105 (87.50 %) never visited any place under this scheme. In total, 15 visits were made by 15 members i.e. one visit per member and no member visited twice. Out of 15 visits, 8 (53.33 %) were made during the year 2001-02, 2(13.33 %) during 2002-03 and only one (6.67 %) visit during 2001-02. Whereas only 4 visits were made before the reference period i.e. before 2000-01. Member of Sonipat district showed more eagerness (9 out of 15 visits) to visit other State.

3.15.2 Categorywise Non-Executive Member's Participation in Study Tours:

Table 3.27

Category wise members who attended inter-State study tour.

Sr.NO.	Distt	Members Aailed Tour				Not Aailed	Total
		SC	BC	Others	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	2	-	1	3	27	30
2.	Jind	-	-	2	2	28	30
3.	Kurukshetra	-	-	1	1	29	30
4.	Sonipat	2	2	5	9	21	30
Total		4	2	9	15	105	120
		(26.67)	(13.33)	(60.00)	(12.50)	(87.50)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

It was found from the survey that 105 (87.50 %) sampled members did not attend inter-State study tour. Out of 15 (12.50 %) members who attended such tours, as many as 6 (40 %) were from SC/BC category. It implies that ladies from this section of the rural society, which was earlier reluctant in taking bold decisions to go outside the State for a longer period of 10 days, are coming forward to take exposure.

3.15.3 Awareness of the Inter-State Study Tour:

Non-executive member's awareness of the study tour is presented below.

Table 3.28

Non-executive member's awareness about inter-State study tour.

Sr.No.	Distt	Aware	Not Aware	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Faridabad	27	3	30
2.	Jind	27	3	30
3.	Kurukshetra	30	-	30
4.	Sonipat	25	5	30
Total		109 (90.83)	11 (9.17)	120 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

The data reveals that out of 120 members, only 109 (90.83%) were aware of the inter-State study tour scheme of the mahila mandal and the remaining 11 (9.17%) were not much familiar with it. This was due to the social structure of the villages where young ladies were not allowed by the head of their family to go alone outside the village for a longer period of about 10 days resulted in lesser interest in such type of activities. Most of the sampled members who attended the inter-State study tour were more or less aware of the criteria for selection of members for attending such tours. Some of the sampled members were never intimated about these tours, otherwise they were interested to participate in it.

3.15.4 Views of Members About Economic Benefits of Inter-State Study Tour:

The non-executive sampled members of the mahila mandals were asked whether the inter-State study tours were helpful in generating economic activities or not. Their opinion as observed in the survey is shown in the following table:

Table 3.29

Views of non-executive members about economic benefits of inter-State study tour.

Sr.No.	Distt.	Helpful	Not Helpful	Attended	Not attended	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Faridabad	1	2	3	27	30
2.	Jind	-	2	2	28	30
3.	Kurukshetra	-	1	1	29	30
4.	Sonipat	5	4	9	21	30
Total		6 (40.00)	9 (60.00)	15 (12.50)	105 (87.50)	120 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Data shows that out of 15 members who attended the inter-State study tour, only 6 (40 %) were of the opinion that the tours were helpful in generating economic activities. As many as 9 (60 %) replied that these tours were not helpful in generating economic activities. It was also found that more emphasis was given to visit the religious and historical places where as less attention was given to learn the income generating activities which divert from its main objective of making the rural women economically more sound.

3.15.5 Rating of Mahila Mandal Scheme by the Non-Executive Members:

The non-executive member's views about rating of the mahila mandals under any of the 5 categories namely very good, good, satisfactory, poor and not useful is shown in the following table.

Table 3.30

Views of non-executive members about the mahila mandals.

Sr. No.	Distt.	Very Good	Good	Satis- factory	Poor	Not useful	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Faridabad	-	5	16	7	2	30
2.	Jind	-	4	8	9	9	30
3.	Kurukshetra	4	4	13	8	1	30
4.	Sonipat	1	-	10	1	18	30
Total		5 (4.16)	13 (10.82)	47 (39.20)	25 (20.82)	30 (25.00)	120 (100.00)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Out of 120 non-executive sampled members, as many as 47 (39.20 %) rated the schemes of the mahila mandal as a whole as satisfactory, 13 (10.82 %) members kept the schemes under 'Good' category and 5 (4.16 %) members gave 'Very good' remarks about it. Whereas 25 (20.82 %) kept the schemes under 'Poor' category and 30 (25 %) said that the schemes were not useful. In a nutshell, 65 (54.17 %) gave favorable remarks about the mahila mandals as a whole where as 55 (45.83 %) gave adverse remarks.

CHAPTER-IV

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Findings:

The main findings of the study are as under:

A. Programme Implementation:

1. In total, 6713 registered mahila mandals were found. Maximum mahila mandals were in Gurgaon district (657), followed by Yamuna Nagar (612), Ambala (434), Karnal (421), Kurukshetra (406) and Faridabad (400) due to large number of villages in these districts. Whereas, a minimum of 154 mahila mandals were observed in Rohtak district followed by Panipat (168), Fatehabad (216) and Jhajjar (244) mainly due to less number of villages in these districts.
2. Nineteen district-level mahila mandal sammelans per year were held during 2000-01 to 2002-03. One district-level sammelan was held in each district every year and one State-level sammelan was held in Ambala district during 2000-01.
3. During the study period, 3 inter-State study tours were organised by Ambala district, 2 each by Panipat and Rewari districts where as only one tour was organised by 11 districts namely Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Hisar, Jhajjar, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendergarh, Rohtak and Sirsa districts. On the other hand Gurgaon, Jind, Panchkula, Sonipat and Yamuna Nagar districts did not organise any study tour during 2000-01 to 2002-03 due to less innovative staff in these districts.
4. Against the target of promotion and strengthening of 800 mahila mandals during each of the reference year, the department achieved the target during 2000-01, which was declined to 78.37% (627 mahila mandals) in 2001-02 and further declined to 55% (444 mahila mandals) during 2002-03.
5. Against the targets of 20, 20 and 19, the department organised 20, 19 and 19 mahila mandal sammelans during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.
6. Against the target of awarding 102 mahila mandals per year, the department awarded 103, 102 and 90 mahila mandals during the respective year.

7. The department achieved the targets of organising 6 inter-State study tours during each year of the reference period.
8. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 12.40 lakh the 'promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals' component occupied largest share (48.89 %) followed by 'mahila mandal sammelans' (24.19 %) and 'inter-State study tours' (16.13 %). "Incentives/ awards to mahila mandals" occupied smallest share of 11.29 %.
9. Scheme wise outlay remained the same for the period 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03 i.e. Rs. 6.0 lakh for promotion and strengthening of mahila mandals, Rs. 3.0 lakh for mahila mandal sammelans, Rs. 1.40 lakh for incentives/awards and Rs. 2.0 lakh for inter-State study tours.
10. The department utilised 98.38 % of the total outlay (Rs.12.40 lakh) during 2000-01. The utilisation decreased to 80.48 % in 2001-02 and 75.80 % in 2002-03.
11. An expenditure of Rs. 1.1 lakh was made in the State-level sammelans. A sum of Rs. 10000/- was used for each district level sammelans during 2000-01 and 2001-02, which was increased to Rs. 15000/- during 2002-03.
12. During 2000-01, 18 awards of category 'A' worth Rs. 2000/- each were presented to one mahila mandal from each district except Panipat. Nineteen awards were given during 2001-02 whereas, 17 awards were given in the districts except Kaithal and Sonipat during 2002-03.
13. Two mahila mandals from each district were awarded with Rs. 1500/- each (category 'B' award) during 2000-01 and 2001-02 i.e. 38 awards per year whereas 33 awards were given during 2002-03. No award was given in Kaithal and Sonipat districts and only one mahila mandal was awarded in Panipat district during 2002-03.
14. During 2000-01, 47 mahila mandals were awarded Rs. 1000/- each under category 'C' award. Forty-five mahila mandals were awarded during 2001-02 whereas 40 mahila mandals were awarded during 2002-03. No mahila mandal was awarded in Kaithal and Sonipat districts during 2002-03.

B. Field Survey: Executive Members.

1. Out of 80 selected executive members, 44 (55 %) were illiterate and 36 (45 %) were literate. Only 19 (52.78 %) were up to primary, 11(30.55 %) were up to middle, 6 (16.67 %) were up to matric and none was above matric.
2. Out of 80 sampled executive members, only 6 (7.50 %) belonged to scheduled castes, 23 (28.75 %) were from backward classes and the remaining 51(63.75%) were from other category. Women belonged to scheduled castes were less.
3. Out of 80 executive members, a maximum of 27 (33.75 %) belonged to 35-49 years age group, followed by 23 (28.75 %) from 50-59 years, 19 (23.75 %) from 60-69 years, 7 (8.75 %) from 25-34 years and 4 (5 %) were from above 70 years. Thus participation of very old and very young executive members was very less as compared to the mature age women.
4. Out of 80 executive members, as much as 31 (38.50 %) were holding their posts since 1986-90, followed by 16 (20 %) since 1991-95, 15 (18.75 %) before 1985 and 14 (17.50 %) since 1996-2000. Only 4 (5 %) were holding posts from 2000 onwards. It implies that majority of the executive members i. e. 47 (58.75%) were holding their posts since the last 10-19 years.
5. Out of 40 sampled mahila mandals, 37 (92.50 %) were operated from the houses of Pradhan where as only 2 (5 %) were running from some Government buildings and only one (2.50 %) was operated from private building.
6. Out of 40 sampled mahila mandals, 17 (42.50 %) were in operation since inception of the scheme, 14 (35.00 %) were in operation since 1986-90, 7 (17.50 %) from 1991-95 and 2 (5 %) mahila mandals since 1995-2000.
7. Out of 40 sampled mahila mandals, 16 (40 %) called sabha after 5-6 months, 14 (35 %) at 2-3 months interval, 8 (20 %) within 2 months and one (2.50 %) at 4-5 months interval. Where as one mahila mandal of Faridabad district did not call sabha during 2003. Thus most of the mahila mandals did not call sabha within the stipulated time of one month.
8. Out of 80 executive members, 70 (87.50 %) were of the opinion that mahila mandals play an important role in developing personal contact and a number of social works could be done for the village, resulted in welfare of the community. But 10 (12.50 %) executive members said that mahila mandals did not have

much impact on developing personal contact, social works and community welfare.

9. As many as 77 (96.25 %) executive members adopted few or more activities at their home, where as 3 (3.75 %) did not adopt the activities at their home.
10. Out of 80 executive members, 46 intimated that the grant was utilised by purchasing items such as dari, utensils (cups, glasses, plates, jug, etc.), crockery, tables, chairs, fans, clothes, etc. The money earned was further utilised for purchasing fresh items. Six executive members of Faridabad, 14 of Jind and 14 of Sonipat districts said that the grant was not utilised by their mahila mandals.
11. In total, 59 (73.75 %) executive members were not satisfied with the grant for the mahila mandals. Most of the executive members have requested the concerned officers/officials to revise the grant at least 2-4 times of the provision because the prevailing amount was very less to increase their source of income.
12. Out of 80, only 45 (56.25 %) executive members made 52 visits in total to the mahila mandal sammelans. Out of 52 visits, 11 (21.15 %) were made during 2000-01, 12 (23.08 %) visits during 2001-02 and 15 (28.85 %) during 2002-03. On the other hand, only 14 (26.92 %) visits were made before 2000-01. Thus, the executive members showed increasing interest in mahila mandal sammelans.
13. Out of 45 sampled executive members who visited the sammelans, 43 (95.55 %) explain the knowledge gained in the sammelans to other members where as 2 (4.45 %) did not explained. They adopted few or more activities at their home. Only 6 (13.33 %) intimated that the sammelans helped in generating income and the rest 39 (86.67 %) opined that the sammelans were not helpful in generating income. It implies that the mahila mandal sammelans were not having major impact on the economic condition of rural ladies. All the 45 sampled members were found satisfied with the arrangements made in the sammelans.
14. Out of 40 sampled mahila mandals, one of Jind district during 2002-03 and another of Sonipat during 1995 received 'A' category award of Rs. 2000/- each. One mahila mandal of Jind and 3 of Kurukshetra district received 'B' category award of Rs. 1500/- each (4 in total). Five mahila mandals of Faridabad, 4 of Sonipat, 2 of Jind and one of Kurukshetra districts received 'C' category awards of Rs. 1500/- each (12 in total). Four mahila mandals also received special awards from the local administration either in terms of cash worth Rs. 715/- or Rs. 1000/- or in kind such as pressure cookers/sewing machines/utensils.

15. Out of 80, only 17 (21.25 %) sampled executive members attended inter-State study tours out of which 3 (18.75 %) were from SC/BC category. It implies that ladies from this section of the rural society, which was earlier a recessive one, are coming forward to take exposure of the outside world.
16. Out of 80 executive members, only 71 (88.75 %) were aware of the inter-State study tour of mahila mandals scheme and the remaining 9 (11.25 %) were not much familiar about it. This may be due to lack of education and typical (traditional) social structure prevailing in the villages. Most of the sampled executive members who attended the inter-State study tour were more or less aware of the criteria for selection of members for attending such tours.
17. Out of 17 executive members who attended tours, only 4 (23.53 %) accepted that it was helpful in generating economic activities. It was also observed that main emphasis was given on visiting the religious and historical places where as less attention was given on learning the income generating activities. They were interested to be reselected for such tours even with the facility available as it provides rare chance to visit distant places. The general opinion was that the duration of 10 days was too long and suggested for 5-6 days tours.
18. Out of 80 sampled executive members, 50 (62.50 %) gave favorable remarks about the mahila mandals as a whole as 25 (31.25 %) said 'satisfactory', 24 (30 %) mentioned 'good' and 1 (1.25 %) named it as very good. On the other hand, 30 (37.50 %) executive members gave adverse remarks as 17 (21.25 %) kept it under 'poor' and 13 (16.25 %) under 'not useful' category.

C. Field Survey: Non Executive/Temporary Members

6. Out of 120 sampled non-executive mahila mandal members, 72 (60 %) were illiterate and 48 (40 %) were literate. Among the literates, 30 were up to primary, 11 were up to middle, 7 were up to matric and none was above matric.
2. Out of 120 sampled members, only 15 (12.5 %) belonged to scheduled castes, 39 (32.50 %) were from backward classes and the remaining 66 (55 %) were from other category.

3. Out of 120 members, a maximum of 57 (47.50 %) belonged to 35-49 years age group, followed by 21 (17.50 %) from 50-59 years, 19 (15.83 %) were from 60-69 years, 15 (12.50 %) were from 25-34 years and 6 (5 %) from above 70 years and 2 (1.67 %) were from below 25 years age groups. Participation of very old and young women was less as compared to the middle age women.
4. Out of 120 members, 96 (80 %) admitted that the mahila mandal sabha plays an important role in developing personal contact and a number of social works could be done resulting in welfare of the community. But 24 (20 %) members said that the mahila mandals did not have much impact on developing the personal contact, social works and community welfare.
5. Out of 120 sampled members, 110(91.67 %) attended few or more mahila mandal sabhas. On the other hand, 10(8.33 %) did not attend any sabha. It implies that at least 10 % members were not interested in attending mahila mandal sabha may be due to their priority towards the household activities.
6. Out of 120, only 42 (35 %) sampled members made 52 visits to the mahila mandal sammelans. Out of 52 visits, 22 (42.30 %) visits were made before 2000-01 followed by 14 (26.92 %) visits during 2001-02 and 8 (15.38 %) visits during each of the year 2000-01 and 2002-03.
7. Out of 120 members, only 110 (91.67 %) were aware of the sammelan scheme and the remaining 10 (8.33 %) were not much familiar about it due to their priority towards the household activities.
8. Out of 42 members who visited the sammelan, 39 (92.85 %) shared the knowledge with other members where as 3 (7.15 %) did not share. All the 42 members adopted few or more activities at their home. It may be concluded that most of the members who had visited the sammelans were taking personal interest in expending the benefits of the scheme in the village.
9. Out of 42 sampled members who visited the sammelans, 39 (92.85 %) expressed satisfaction about the arrangements made in sammelans and did not face difficulty in the sammelans. On the other hand, 3 (7.15 %) were not satisfied especially with the refreshment and seating due to excess participation of rural women resulted in shortage of space and refreshment material.

10. Out of 120 sampled members, only 15 (12.50 %) visited inter-State study tour and the rest 105 (87.50 %) never visited any where under this scheme. Out of 15 visits made by them, 8 (53.33 %) were during 2001-02, 2 (13.33 %) were during 2002-03 and only one (6.67 %) visit was in 2000-01. Where as only 4 visits were made before 2000-01, which shows that interest in the recent years have increased.
11. Out of 15 (12.50 %) non-executive members who attended such tours, as many as 4 (26.67 %) were from SC category, 2 (13.33 %) were from BC category and the remaining 9 (60 %) were from other category. Out of 15 non-executive SC members as many as 4 (26.67 %) attended tours, 2 out of 39 (5.13 %) non-executive BC members attended tours and remaining 9 out of 66 (13.64 %) were from other category. It implies that ladies from SC category of the rural society, which were earlier reluctant in taking bold decision to go outside the State for a longer period of 10 days, are coming forward to take exposure.
12. Out of 120 members, 112 (93.33 %) were aware of the inter-state study tour and the remaining 8 (6.67 %) were not much familiar with it. This may be due to the social system of the villages where young ladies were not allowed by head of their family to go alone for a period of about 10 days. Most of the members who attended inter-State study tour were more or less aware of the criteria for selection of members for attending tours.
13. Out of 15 members who attended tours, only 5 (33.33 %) were of the opinion that the tours were helpful in generating economic activities. More emphasis was given to visit religious and historical places, where as less attention to learn the income generating activities, which diverted from its main objective of making the rural women economically more sound.
14. Out of 120 sampled members, 65 (54.17 %) gave favourable remarks to the scheme as a whole as 47 (39.20 %) said satisfactory, 13 (10.82 %) said 'Good' and 5 (4.16 %) gave 'very good' remarks. Where as 55 (45.83 %) gave adverse remarks as 25 (20.82 %) kept it under 'poor' and 30 (25 %) under 'not useful' category.

2. CONCLUSION:

The mahila mandal scheme, which was started in 1982-83 with the objective of active participation and involvement of rural women in various type of activities so as to improve their social and economic status. Earlier its impact was not very encouraging due to our traditional male dominated rural society. But since the last 5 years, a drastic change in the approach of the rural women could be seen such as 26.92 % of the sampled executive members and 42.30 % non-executive members visited sammelans before 1999 while 73.08 % of the sampled executive members and 57.70 % non-executive members visited sammelans after 1999, 26.67 % sampled non-executive members visited inter-State study tours before 1999 whereas 73.33 % sampled non-executive members visited inter-State study tours after 1999, etc. It may be concluded that this change was seen in some members due to the mahila mandal schemes. Therefore, stress should be made to cover most of the women residing in the village of the State.

3. SHORTCOMINGS/BOTTLENECKS:

1. Total outlay (12.40 lakh) was very less to cover all 4 sub-schemes effectively in 6714 mahila mandals of 19 districts of the State.
2. Target for promoting and strengthening of 800 mahila mandals every year was under achieved (78.37 %) during 2001-02 and (55 %) during 2002-03.
3. Scheduled Castes women were having very less representation in the executive (7.50 %) and non-executive members (10 %) of the mahila mandals.
4. Only 20 % sampled mahila mandals called sabha within 2 months and the rest call sabha in more than 2 months interval period even one mahila mandal of Faridabad district did not call sabha during the year 2003 while the norm is to call sabha bimonthly.
5. About 42% of the mahila mandals had not utilised the grant. Majority of the executive members (73.75 %) were not satisfied with the amount of the grant.
6. 43.75 % sampled executive members and 65 % non-executive members never visited any sammelan. Majority (86.67%) of the members, who attended sammelans, was of the opinion that the mahila mandal sammelans were not playing important role in generating the source of income.

7. No mahila mandal in Panipat district was given 'A' category award during 2000-01. Surprisingly, no mahila mandal in Kaithal and Sonipat districts was awarded with 'A', 'B' and 'C' category award during 2002-03. Out of the target of 102 awards, 90 (88.24 %) awards were given in 2002-03.
8. Panchkula, Yamuna Nagar, Sonipat, Gurgaon and Jind districts did not organise Inter-State study tour during 2000-01 to 2002-03.
9. Most of the sampled executive and non-executive members did not attend inter-State study tour. Majority of the members, who attended the inter-State study tours, replied that these tours were not helpful in generating economic activities as the main emphasis was given on visiting the religious/historical places where as less attention was given to learn the income generating activities.
10. Most of the mahila mandals (92.50 %) were operated from the house of the Pradhan rather than from Government/private buildings.
11. Many members were close relatives/families of the executive members due to which the scheme covered a small area/part of the village.
12. 37.50 % sampled executive members and 45.83 % non-executive members gave adverse remarks about the mahila mandal scheme as a whole.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Total outlay (Rs.12.40 lakh) should be increased by few times or up to a sizeable amount for all the 4 sub-schemes individually.
2. More women especially from the Scheduled castes category should be involved in the mahila mandals.
3. The officers/staff associated with the scheme should ensure that mahila mandals sabha should be organised at least once in two months period.
4. The grant provision for raising the economic activities was very less. It should be increased from the prevailing Rs. 1500/- to at least Rs. 5000/-.
5. Pradhan should encourage every member to visit the sammelan at least once for her exposure. Budget for the sammelans should be increased by 2 times. Better planning in organising the sammelans is required.

6. Procedure and assessment of mahila mandals for awards should be transparent and simple. P.O., ICDS should be given more powers for finalising the awards. The staff involved in Kaithal and Sonipat districts should be held responsible for not awarding any mahila mandal in those districts during 2002-03. More efficient staff should be deployed to motivate the members and the rural ladies. Number of awards should be increased.
7. Each district should organise inter-State study tours once in alternate year with special emphasis on visiting income-generating activities.
8. More inter-State study tour of 5-6 days in place of 10 days with more participation of mahila mandal members (4-5 from each block) are suggested because it is very difficult for the rural women to leave their family for such a long time.
9. Govt./private buildings should be made available in the villages for the mahila mandal sabha as some members were not fully participating due to their non-cordial relations with the Pradhan.
10. Numbers of mahila mandals especially in big villages should be increased for better/coverage/representation of all parts of the village.
11. This Programme should not be limited to the members only. Non-members may also be encouraged to take benefit of the activities under mahila mandal scheme.
12. Special focus should be on the female education, which will help in enhancing their confidence level so as to increase their decision making and leadership qualities.