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labour, there was a small decline in the employment per hectare in 1980-81 compared with that in 1971-72. Wider application of new agricultural strategy has resulted in reducing the differential in the wage rates of men and women. Agricultural modernization has increased the share of women in Punjab agriculture.

IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON RURAL WOMEN IN BHIWANI DISTRICT OF HARYANA

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The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) devoted a separate chapter to women and development. Although the family was taken as the basic unit of development, special attention was given to women as the most vulnerable members of the family. During the Sixth Plan integrated rural development programme (IRDP) was initiated in all the 5,011 development blocks of the country to alleviate rural poverty and raising the socio-economic status of the weaker sections including rural women. Under IRDP the sewing and knitting activities are identified as a potential programme through which the women can get additional incomes.

Training is provided to farm women in these crafts in groups in selected villages for about six months and each trainee is paid a monthly stipend. A large number of craft centres have been started and funds invested throughout the country to impart training in tailoring and to provide assistance to adopt it as a profession.

The present study was conducted to examine the impact of assistance provided under tailoring craft on the social status of rural women and the extent of additional income these rural families could earn and the pattern of its utilization. Specifically, the objectives of the study were (i) to study the pattern of beneficiaries under the tailoring scheme; (ii) to examine the impact of assistance on income and employment of the beneficiaries; and (iii) to study the impact of the scheme on the social status of beneficiary women.

METHODOLOGY

Bhiwani district of Haryana State was purposively selected which represents the dry tracts of the State. In such areas off-farm income plays a major role in farm family income. Over 7,000 farm women have been trained in tailoring in the district since the inception of the scheme in 1978-79. Two villages having the largest number of trainees were further selected from the district. All the families benefited under the scheme in the selected villages were covered in the study. Necessary data were collected through personal interview with the beneficiary by survey method on a suitably designed schedule for the year 1984-85. Tabular analysis has been done to present the results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Beneficiaries and Utilization Pattern of Benefits

During the year 1984-85 the total number of beneficiaries in the two selected villages was 50. Out of the total beneficiaries, 4 (8 per cent) belonged to marginal farm households and the remaining 46 (92 per cent) to landless agricultural labour families. Under this scheme financial assistance was provided to the respondents in two components: (i) stipend at the rate of Rs. 50 per month for six months and (ii) one-third subsidy on sewing machine.

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The study of utilization of this assistance by the beneficiary farm families indicated that the stipend was not provided in cash to any of the beneficiaries. Rather the stipend money was used to meet the two-third cost of the sewing machine which was to be met by the trainees. So the assistance provided to the beneficiaries was 100 per cent used for the purchase of sewing machines as the trainees were only provided with a sewing machine each by the agency after completing training in sewing for six months.

The beneficiaries are trained and given a sewing machine to each of them to adopt tailoring as their profession. The results pertaining to the fulfilment of this aim are given in Table I.

TABLE I - PATTERN OF UTILIZATION OF SEWING MACHINE BY BENEFICIARY WOMEN

Sr. No.	Particulars	Number of respondents		
		Marginal farm family	Landless	Total
1.	Adopted tailoring as a profession	—	10 (20)	10 (20)
2.	Doing tailoring for domestic use	2 (4)	32 (64)	34 (68)
3.	Sewing machine lying idle	—	2 (4)	2 (4)
4.	Gifted sewing machine in daughter's marriage, etc.	2 (4)	2 (4)	4 (8)
Total		4 (8)	46 (92)	50 (100)

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total.

Regarding the utilization of sewing machine, the study indicated that only 20 per cent of the women beneficiaries adopted tailoring as a profession while 68 per cent of them used the sewing machines for domestic use only, i.e., sewing and repairing the clothes only of their family members. In the case of 4 per cent of the beneficiaries the sewing machines were lying idle and 8 per cent of them had already gifted the sewing machines to their daughters at the time of their marriages. It was also interesting to note that the women who had adopted tailoring as a profession were landless labourers. The study further indicated that those ladies who just confined themselves to their domestic sewing work were not properly trained and lacked confidence to adopt tailoring as their profession.

Impact on Income and Employment of Beneficiaries

Further an attempt was made to examine the impact of sewing machine in enhancing the income and employment of the beneficiaries who made tailoring as their profession or confined tailoring to their domestic use. It is clear from Table II that the beneficiaries who had worked as agricultural labourers before IRDP assistance and now did professional tailoring have raised their annual income from Rs. 850 to Rs. 2,600, i.e., a net rise in income by Rs. 1,750 per annum. In addition, this has resulted in reducing drudgery in their work.

The beneficiaries who have confined their training and assistance to domestic tailoring have supplemented their income by Rs. 200 per annum. In other words, the domestic tailoring has merely helped to save Rs. 200 for the family in a year without reducing the drudgery of women in agricultural work.

Table III shows the extent of improvement in employment of the beneficiaries of the landless and marginal farm households.

TABLE II . IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE ON THE INCOMES OF BENEFICIARIES

Particulars	Average income of beneficiary per annum (Rs.)					
	Before assistance		After assistance		Additional income	
	Landless	Marginal farm family	Landless	Marginal farm family	Landless	Marginal farm family
(a) Professional tailoring						
(i) Income from farm labour work	850	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Income from tailoring	—	—	2,400	—	2,400	—
(iii) Domestic tailoring work	—	—	200	—	200	—
Total	850	—	2,600	—	1,750	—
(b) Domestic tailoring						
(i) Domestic tailoring work	—	—	200	200	200	200
(ii) Income from farm labour work	850	1,500	850	1,500	—	—
(iii) Other income	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	850	1,500	1,050	1,700	200	200

TABLE III IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT LEVEL OF BENEFICIARIES

(employment days per annum)

Households	Professional tailoring		Domestic tailoring	
	Before	After	Before	After
Landless				
Agriculture	65	—	65	65
Tailoring	—	200	—	15
Total	65	200	65	80
Marginal farm family				
Agriculture	—	—	95	95
Tailoring	—	—	—	15
Total	—	—	95	110

The table indicates that the women from the landless families who worked as agricultural labourers before IRDP assistance got employment on an average for about 65 days in a year. After IRDP assistance, those women who adopted tailoring as a profession got employment for about 200 days in tailoring; and those who did domestic tailoring only and their main occupation is still agricultural labour got employment for about 80 days in a year.

The women from marginal farm families have limited themselves only to domestic tailoring and their main occupation is still agriculture. Before IRDP assistance, they were employed only for 95 days in a year but now they got employment for 110 days.

So it can be concluded that IRDP assistance has increased the employment opportunities in general and for those who have adopted tailoring as a profession in particular.

Impact on Social Status of Beneficiaries

The results pertaining to the utilization of incremental income of the beneficiaries and the impact of assistance on their social status are summarised in Tables IV and V respectively.

TABLE IV PATTERN OF UTILIZATION OF ADDITIONAL INCOME AFTER IRDP ASSISTANCE
(per cent)

Sr. No.	Item	Professional tailoring	Domestic tailoring
1.	Repayment of old debt	50	—
2.	Social obligations	20	—
3.	For domestic needs	30	100
	Total	100	100

TABLE V IMPACT OF IRDP ASSISTANCE ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BENEFICIARIES

Sr. No.	Particulars	Number of respondents			
		Professional tailoring		Domestic tailoring	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	Is there any upliftment in social status?	10	—	—	34
2.	Do other people visit your house for tailoring?	10	—	—	34
3.	Has the standard of living of the family gone up?	10	—	—	34
4.	Since you devote more time in home, have the living conditions of your children improved?	10	—	—	34
5.	Do your family members wear better clothes?	10	—	34	—

Table IV shows that the beneficiaries adopting tailoring as their profession used about half of their incremental income (Rs. 875) for the repayment of old debts because the landless families were invariably in debt. Only 30 per cent, (i.e., Rs. 525) of the additional income was used for the enhancement of domestic consumption items. The remaining 20 per cent was spent to meet the social obligations in social ceremonies. On the other hand, the beneficiaries limiting their tailoring activities to their own families spent all the amount (about Rs. 200) for domestic purposes, mainly for clothing.

It is evident from Table V that all the respondents who adopted tailoring as a profession after IRDP assistance raised their social status as well because previously they were working as agricultural labourers and were going to the houses of the farmers to ask them for work at their fields. But now other people came to their houses for giving them sewing work and with requests for getting their work done. In spite of increase in their employment days, they have reduced drudgery in their work, spend more time at their houses for looking after their children and keeping their family members better dressed.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the living conditions of the families who adopted tailoring as a profession after IRDP assistance have improved in all respects. But in the case of those families who have not adopted tailoring as a profession after IRDP assistance, there is no change in their living conditions except that they wear comparatively good clothes duly repaired well in time. This is because now they are saving Rs. 200 per year which previously they were paying to the tailors for sewing their clothes and now they are spending this saving for their domestic use and mainly for clothing.