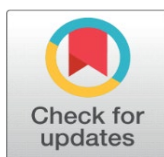
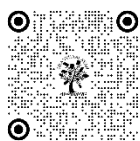


# IMPACT OF MICROFINANCE THROUGH DWCRA GROUPS: A CASE STUDY OF BENNUR (B) VILLAGE, CHITTAPUR TALUKA, KALABURAGI DISTRICT

Dr. Kailaspathi 

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor and Head Department of Commerce, Revansiddapp Kanta Government First Grade College Chittapur Tq. Chittapur Dist. Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India



## Corresponding Author

Dr. Kailaspathi,  
[kailaspathi.vishwakarma@gmail.com](mailto:kailaspathi.vishwakarma@gmail.com)

DOI  
[10.29121/shodhkosh.v4.i2.2023.3665](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v4.i2.2023.3665)

**Funding:** This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Copyright:** © 2023 The Author(s). This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

With the license CC-BY, authors retain the copyright, allowing anyone to download, reuse, re-print, modify, distribute, and/or copy their contribution. The work must be properly attributed to its author.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Microcredit involves extending small loans to groups of impoverished individuals, particularly women, to invest in self-employment programs. This approach enhances their earning potential and improves the standard of living for the poor. The impact of microcredit is amplified when coupled with increased access to basic social services, compared to programs that focus solely on credit. Additionally, microcredit empowers women by enabling them to make economic decisions and contribute to household income. Empowered women often drive significant improvements in children's survival rates, health, nutrition, and development. Successful microcredit initiatives typically integrate credit and savings components.

In September 1982, the Government of India (GOI) launched the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) program under the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP). While the program faced challenges in many parts of the country, it achieved notable success in Karnataka. The Karnataka government adopted women's

## ABSTRACT

The DWCRA program has witnessed significant growth in recent years. Microcredit involves extending small loans to groups, particularly to underprivileged women, enabling them to invest in self-employment initiatives, enhance their earning potential, and improve their standard of living. This paper aims to analyse the impact of the DWCRA program on rural women's lives and highlight the role of microfinance as a tool for poverty alleviation in rural areas. The study examines the respondents' roles and responsibilities, their strategies for overcoming challenges after joining DWCRA groups, and comparisons with other DWCRA groups. Statistical tools such as mean and standard deviation have been applied to assess these factors concerning age and caste. The findings indicate that DWCRA women contributed additional income to their families and successfully addressed certain social and familial challenges.

**Keywords:** Microfinance DWCRA Group Women Empowerment Poverty Alleviation Rural Development Self-Help Groups (SHGs) Socio-Economic Impact

empowerment as a strategic approach to addressing socio-economic poverty. Women embraced the DWCRA movement through collective savings, turning it into a mass initiative to shape their future positively.

In recent years, the state's development agenda has prioritized empowering women, leading to the formation of numerous Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and DWCRA groups across Karnataka. Many women now contribute to savings initiatives, such as setting aside one rupee a day. The state government has also actively supported these groups by providing revolving funds and matching grants through various programs.

Furthermore, women involved in DWCRA groups have become increasingly aware of their rights and more socially responsible. According to newspaper reports, the program has helped rural women recognize the importance of education, resulting in a rise in school attendance among girls due to this newfound awareness.

The improved the standard of living of the families and reduced their dependence on moneylenders to a great extent. It was also reported that women who were members of DWCRA were aware of the need for immunization and were open to ideas such as family planning, and education of the girl child.

However, not all were convinced about the success of the DWCRA program. some analyst was critical about the role played by the government. They felt that the government using DWCRS has a political weapon rather than to change the lives of the rural poor. They also pointed out the lack of training and failure to adapt to industry's needs, would lead to the inevitable failure of some the DWCRA groups in spite of all these criticisms, it was generally accepted that the DWCRA program had been successful bringing about much needed change and awareness among the rural women.

The present paper gives an overview of the DWCRA program in Bennur (B) village, it's impact on the lives of rural women there and to understand the importance of micro finance has instrument for poverty alleviation in rural areas.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has been carried out with following specific objectives:

1. To examine the working and impact of DWCRA groups in the sample village.
2. To probe into the changes in regard to rule and responsibilities of the respondents after joining in DWCRA groups
3. To enquire into the major problems faced by the respondents.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The present study employs a combination of case study and survey methods. The case study approach was utilized to conduct an in-depth analysis of microfinance through DWCRA groups in Pinged village. The researcher personally visited the village during November and December 2024. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire distributed to selected respondents, supplemented by informal personal interviews. Secondary data was gathered from various sources, including books, journals, and the internet.

## 4. SAMPLING

The village comprises 27 DWCRA groups, of which 25 are currently active. On average, each group consists of 10 members. A sample of 75 respondents was selected from 15 DWCRA groups distributed across the village. The respondents were chosen using the stratified sampling technique. Statistical tools such as percentages, mean, and standard deviation were employed for data analysis.

## 5. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The results of the study are presented in three sections viz. 1. Social Background 2. Profile of the DWCRA groups 3. Role and responsibilities after joining the DWCRA groups

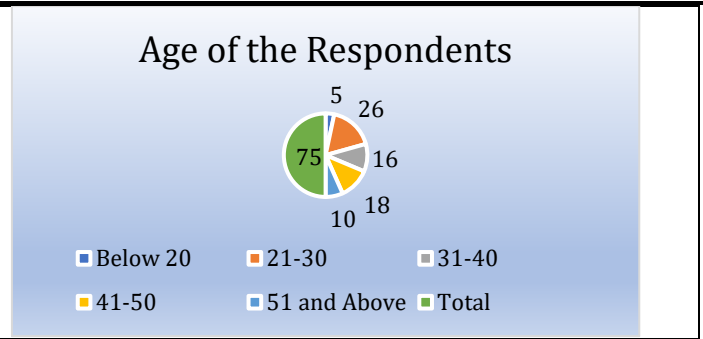
### I. SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS:

**Table 1** provides an overview of the age distribution among the 75 respondents. The data reveals that 24.4% of respondents are within the 41–50 years age group, while 21.3% fall between 31–40 years. Notably, this suggests a significant interest among older women in joining DWCRA groups. In the remaining age categories, 7% of respondents are below 20 years, 35% are aged between 21–30 years, and 13.3% are 51 years and above. These figures indicate that individuals from various age groups are motivated to participate in DWCRA initiatives. Consequently, it can be inferred that age plays a crucial role in shaping the participants' motivation to think and act positively.

**Table .1 Age Wise Classification**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20	05	6.7

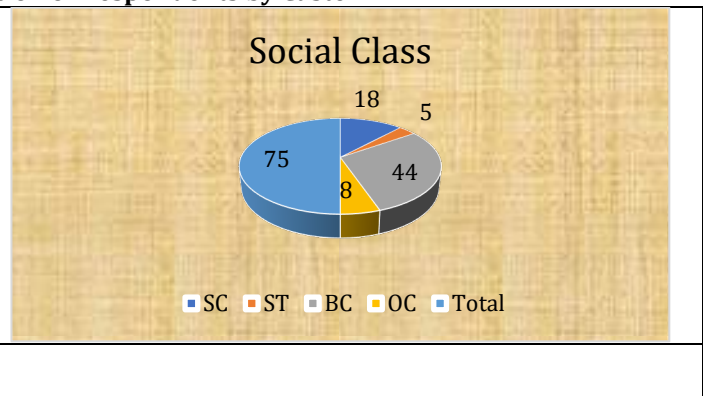
21-30	26	34.7
31-40	16	21.3
41-50	18	24.4
51 and Above	10	13.3
Total	75	100



**Table 2** provides the caste-wise classification of the sample respondents. The data shows that 59% of the respondents belong to the Backward Class, making it the dominant group in the sample village. Additionally, 24% of the respondents are from Scheduled Castes (SC), 11% from other castes, and 6% from Scheduled Tribes (ST). This distribution highlights the significant presence of Backward Class members among the respondents chosen for the study.

**Table 2 Distribution of Respondents by Caste**

Social class	Frequency	Percentage
SC	18	24
ST	5	6.7
BC	44	58.6
OC	8	10.7
Total	75	100

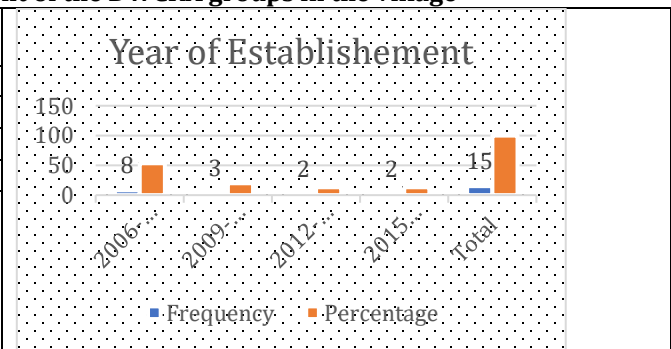


## II. PROFILE OF THE DWCRA GROUPS

**Table 3** illustrates the period of establishment of DWCRA groups in the village, providing insights into whether their formation has encouraged participation among respondents. For the purpose of analysis, the timeframe considered spans from 2000 to 2017. However, in this village, DWCRA groups were initiated only from 2006 onwards. Of the 15 groups, 8 (53.4%) were established between 2006 and 2008, making this the most active period. Additionally, 3 groups were formed between 2009 and 2011, while 2 groups each were established during 2012–2014 and 2015–2017. This data suggests that the majority of DWCRA groups (53.4%) were formed before 2009, reflecting a concentrated effort to establish these groups during the earlier years of the program in the village.

**Table 3 period of establishment of the DWCRA groups in the village**

Year of establishment	Frequency	Percentage
2006-2008	8	53.4
2009-2011	3	20.0
2012-2014	2	13.3
2015 - 2017	2	13.3
Total	15	100

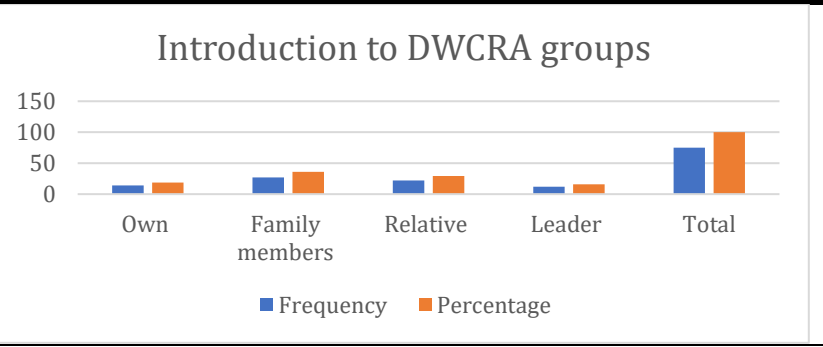


Family members and relative played a prominent role in introducing them to DWCRA group with 36 % and 29% respectively won initiation 18.7 % and leaders 16% has been depicted in the table 4

**Table 4 introduction to DWCRA group**

Member	Frequency	Percentage
Own	14	18.7
Family members	27	36.0
Relative	22	29.3

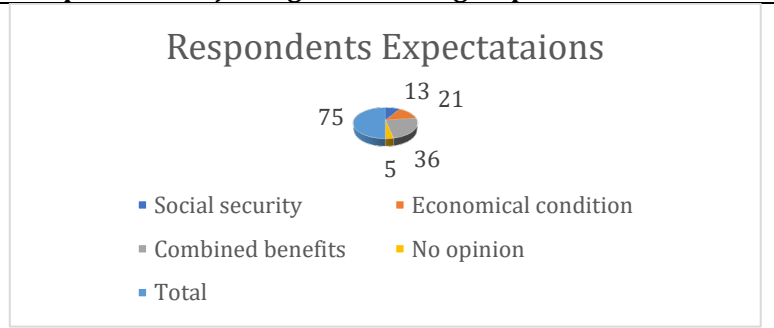
Leader	12	16.0
Total	75	100



**Table 5** outlines the respondents' expectations for joining DWERA groups. For the purpose of analysis, four factors were considered: social security, economic condition, combined benefits, and no specific opinion. The findings reveal that 48% of respondents expect DWERA groups to help them achieve combined benefits, while 28% prioritize improvements in their economic condition. Additionally, 17% of respondents cited social security as their primary expectation, whereas 7% expressed no specific opinion. These results indicate that the majority of respondents have clear expectations from DWERA groups, with a significant emphasis on achieving combined benefits. It can thus be concluded that almost all respondents are aware of the roles and potential advantages of participating in DWERA groups.

**Table 5 Respondent's expectation in joining the DWERA groups**

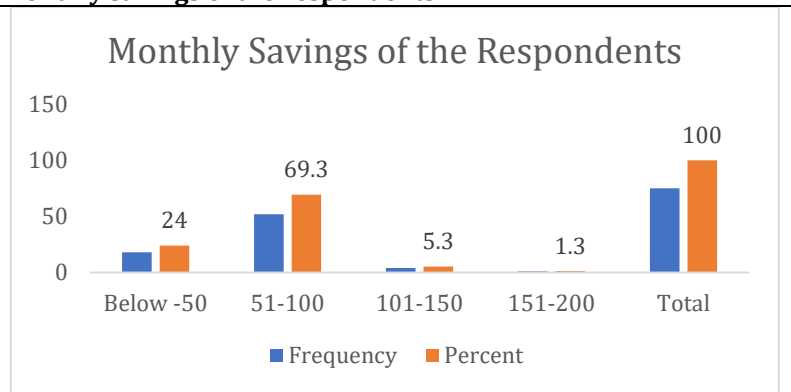
Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Social security	13	17.3
Economical condition	21	28
Combined benefits	36	48
No opinion	5	6.7
Total	75	100



**Table 6** examines the monthly savings of the respondents. The data reveals that nearly 70% of the respondents save between ₹51-100 per month, while only one respondent manages to save ₹151-200. Additionally, 24% save up to ₹50, and 5% save between ₹101-150. Given the limited economic opportunities in rural areas, it is challenging for respondents to save more after meeting their basic necessities, as reflected in the study. However, it can be inferred that all respondents are adhering to the DWERA norm of saving at least one rupee per day, demonstrating their commitment to the program's guidelines.

**Table 6 monthly savings of the respondents**

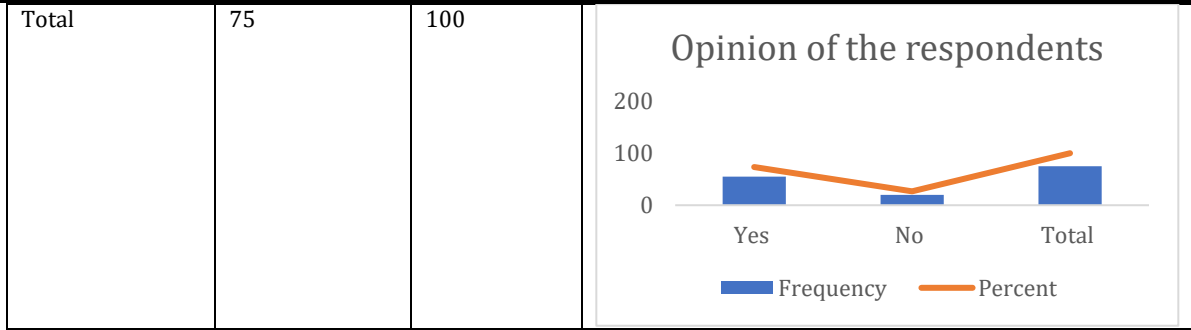
Monthly savings	Frequency	Percent
Below -50	18	24
51-100	52	69.3
101-150	4	5.3
151-200	1	1.3
Total	75	100



Matching the grants received from the government bank and others by DWERA groups is shown in table 7. 73% of respondents revealed that their group is receiving matching grants from authorities. The rest 27% of the respondents are not receiving matching grants for this reason 71% of the respondents are taking loans from DWERA groups.

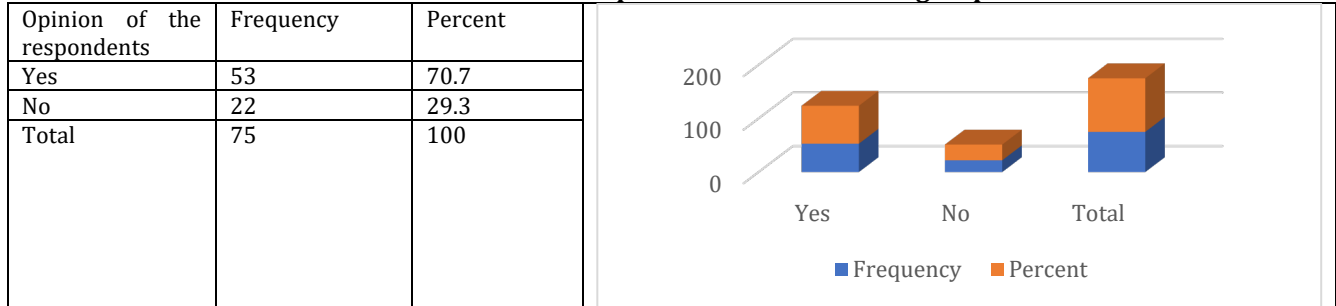
**Table 7 Matching the grants received from the government**

Opinion of the respondents	Frequency	Percent
Yes	55	73.3
No	20	26.7



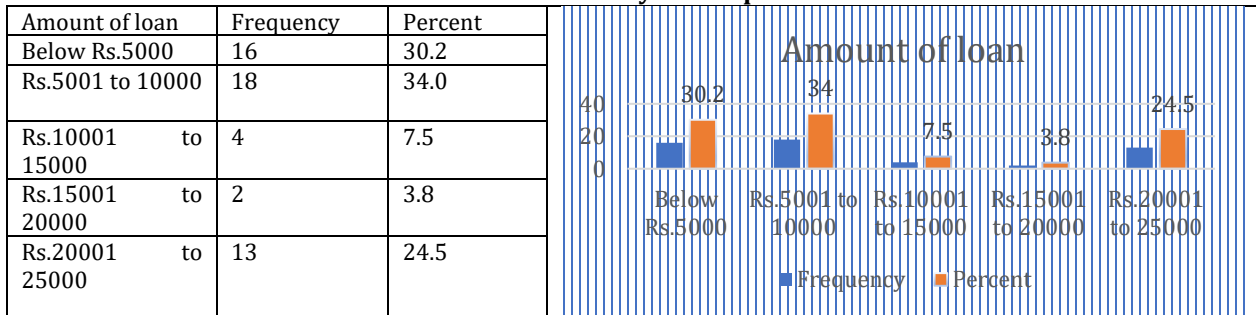
Financial help received from DWCRA groups by the respondents is shown in the table 8 71% of them took loan from DWCRA groups and remaining 29% did not avail this opportunity

**Table 8 financial help received from DWCRA group**



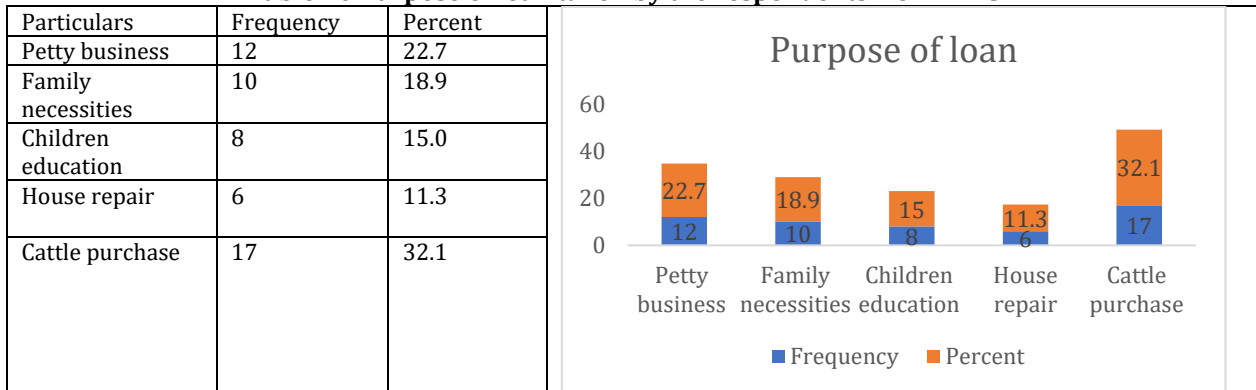
The loan amount take by the respondents is depicted in the table 9 out of the 53 respondents 18 respondents received Rs.5001 to 10000 loan which percentage is 34 % and 30% below 5000 7.5 % and 4% received Rs.10000 to 15000 and 15000-2000 respectively and nearly 25% of the respondents have received a good amount of Rs. 20001 to 25000 in rural areas cattle rearing is the best business. And it is quite interesting to note that most of the respondents took loan to purchase cattle to do petty business.

**Table 9 Amount of loan taken by the respondents from DWCRA**



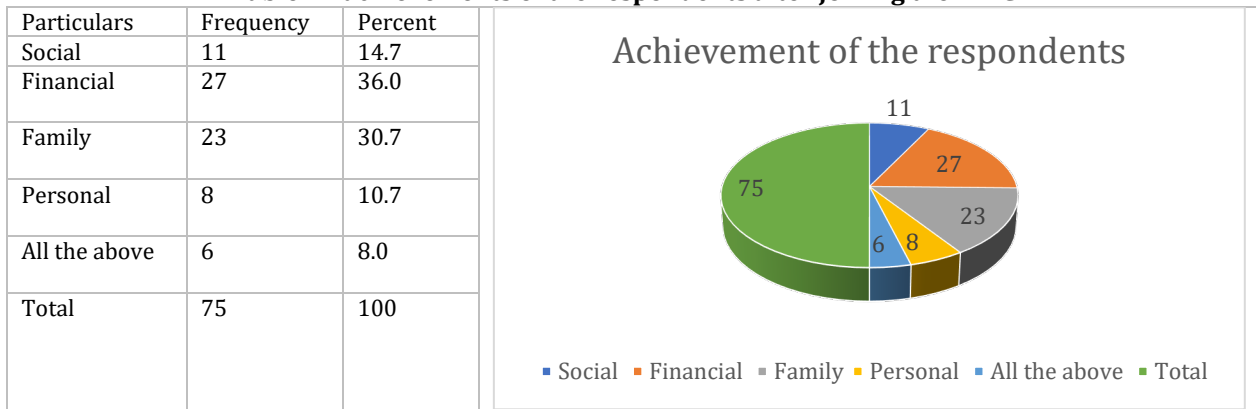
Purpose of loan used by the respondents is depicted in the table 10 respondents used loan for the various purpose like 32% of them used loan to purchase the cattle 22.7% for petty business 18.9% to meet family necessities and 11% for house repair about 15% of the respondents for the children education. This shows their interest towards education

**Table 10 Purpose of loan taken by the respondents from DWCRA**



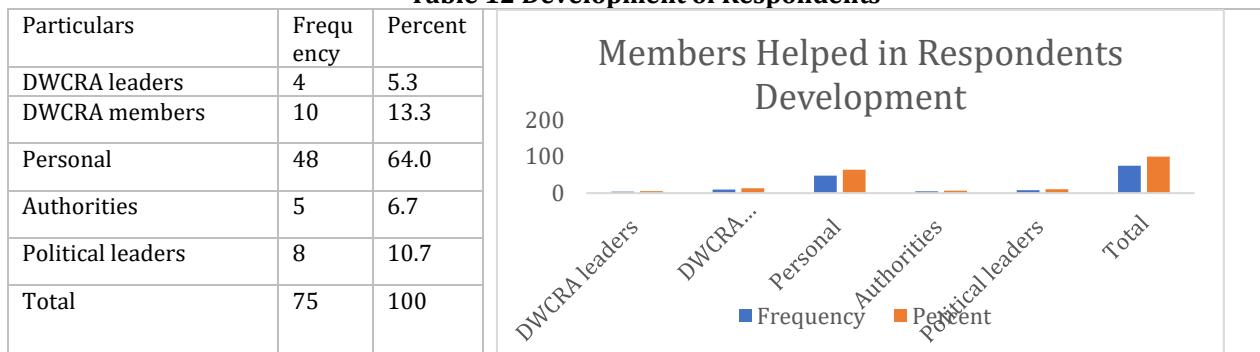
Respondents achievement after joining the DWCRA groups is presented in the table 11 27 respondents fulfilled their financial needs whole valid percentage is 36 % 23 respondents for their family needs which comprise 30.7% and social 14.7 respondents who fulfilled to achieve all the factor are 8% and for the personal needs 10.7% it may be concluded that women face number of problems in their day to day life and DWCRA groups helped them to overcome the problems and improve their livelihood

**Table 11 achievements of the respondents after joining the DWCRA**



Most of the respondents is 64% improved themselves through their person effort 5% by DWCRA leaders 13% and 7% through DWCRA members and authorities finally 11% of the respondents revealed that political leaders helped them in their development after joining DWCRA groups which is depicted in the table 12 on the whole it may be concluded that DWCRA leaders, political leaders and authorities are not playing crucial role in the development of the respondents

**Table 12 Development of Respondents**



### III. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESPONDENTS AFTER JOINING THE DWCRA GROUPS

An attempt is being made to study the age and caste individually in relation to the respondent’s role and responsibilities problems and comparison between other DWCRA groups by applying one way ANOVA.

Table 13 explain the respondents age vs changing role and responsibilities after joining the DWCRA groups mean and standard deviation are calculated all the variables like children education savings economic backgrounds occupation skills kit and kin house items family matters leadership in society and to express opinion badly respondents’ responses to changing role and responsibilities after joining DWCRA were asked by using four point scale like very good change, good change, small change and can’t say pm am average 60.67% of the respondents role and responsibilities had good change, 21.33% very good change, 7.44% small change 10.56% can’t say it is interesting note that there is no difference in the average ratings of all variables in relation to age.

Caste Vs role and responsibilities of the respondents after joining the DWCRA is presented in the table 14 mean and standard deviation are calculated to all the variables, it is inferred from the table that significant difference is found in the average ratings of occupation skills kit and kin house items of caste.

Age vs family problems are depicted in the table 15 various problems like financial housing drinking and household facilities for which mean and standard deviation shown no difference in the average ratings of all the variables in relation to age among all the problems financial and drinking problems are the major problems faced by the respondents

Table 16 which presents about caste vs family problems of the respondents here also mean and standard deviation found no difference in the average ratings of all the variables in relation to caste on whole we can conclude that all the respondents are facing all the types of the problems

In this table 17 respondents age vs comparison between other DWCRA groups is given for the purpose of analysis various factors like leadership, unity, unanimity, punctuality in savings, financial benefits of government programme solution of problems and imitative social things are taken into consideration. Respondents were asked to compare their groups with their groups whether they are better than others equal and inferior to others. Majority of them said that they are equal to others regarding all factors few respondents revealed that their group it's superior and some inferior to others. Mean and standard deviation are calculated and found that there is no difference in the ratings of all the factors.

Table 18 reveals caste vs comparison between other DWCRA groups. It is inferred from the table that no difference is seen in the average ratings of all factors in relation to caste.

Finally it may be concluded about 13 to 18 tables that mean and standard deviation showed no difference in the average ratings of the entire variables in all tables in relation to age and caste. But except in the table 14 it is inferred that significant difference are found in the ratings for the role and responsibilities of occupation, skills and kit and kin in terms of caste

Last but not the least the study has shown the impact of DWCRA group on the respondents life shown in the table 19 most of them said that 37.3% and 30.07% improved financially and socially 7 % each of the respondents could able to repair of the house the remaining 18.6% of the respondents said that they have improved in all above factors. On the whole the respondents are happy and improved their lives after joining DWCRA groups In spite of their happiness DWCRA groups also expressed the problems like lack of awareness about development programmes and activities, inadequate training and for improving awareness and skills, lack of competencies /skills to run the enterprises, social or community pressure for participating in group activities etc., while DWCRA officials expressed some more problems like more paper work, less time available for field work convincing groups that DWCRA programmes is not just an economic intervention programme problem in mobilizing activating DWCRA groups for participation.

**Table 13 age wise role and the responsibilities of the respondents after joining DWCRA**

Factors		Below 20	21-30	31-40	41-50	50 and above	F.	Sig
Children education	Mean	2.00	1.85	1.83	1.89	2.10	.551	.599
	S.D	.00	.368	.383	.676	.738		
Savings	Mean	1.67	2.04	1.83	1.78	.738	1.149	.341
	S.D	.577	.662	.514	.548	1.101		
Economic Background	Mean	1.67	1.96	1.94	1.72	2.30	1.149	.341
	S.D	.577	.720	.639	.669	.949		
Occupation	Mean	2.00	2.08	2.06	2.17	2.40	.252	.907
	S.D	.00	.935	.938	1.045	1.175		
Skill enhancement	Mean	2.00	2.27	2.39	2.28	2.50	.180	.948
	S.D	.000	1.002	1.145	1.127	1.080		
Kit and kin	Mean	1.67	2.46	2.22	2.22	1.90	.748	.563
	S.D	.577	.989	1.263	1.114	.876		
House hold	Mean	1.67	2.27	2.11	1.83	2.20	.947	.449
	S.D	.577	1.041	.323	.786	1.033		
Family matters	Mean	1.67	2.15	1.94	1.94	2.20	.422	.792
	S.D	.577	1.047	.802	.639	1.033		
Leadership	Mean	1.33	2.19	2.44	2.00	2.40	1.572	.919
	S.D	.571	.801	.984	.767	.843		
To express opinion	Mean	1.67	2.19	2.17	2.22	2.20	.251	.908
	S.D	.577	.895	.786	1.003	1.033		

**Table 14 caste vs role and the responsibilities of the respondents after joining DWCRA**

Factors		SC	ST	BC	OC	F.	Sig
Children education	Mean	2.89	1.67	1.89	2.00	308	.820
	S.D	.676	.577	.482	.000		
Savings	Mean	1.67	1.33	2.00	2.25	2.631	0.57
	S.D	.767	.577	.632	.463		
Economic Background	Mean	1.72	1.33	2.00	2.25	1.911	.136

	S.D	.752	.577	.730	.463		
Occupation	Mean	1.67	1.33	2.33	2.38	3.128	.31
	S.D	.767	.577	.967	1.061		
Skill enhancement	Mean	1.67	1.33	2.50	3.00	5.062	.003
	S.D	.767	.577	1.049	.926		
Kit and kin	Mean	1.61	1.33	2.41	3.00	5.416	.002
	S.D	.778	.577	1.066	.926		
House hold	Mean	1.89	1.33	2.20	2.25	1.522	.216
	S.D	.676	.577	.934	4.63		
Family matters	Mean	1.67	1.33	2.22	2.00	1.978	.125
	S.D	.767	.577	.941	.535		
Leadership	Mean	1.94	1.33	2.35	2.25	2.128	.104
	S.D	.725	.577	.924	.463		
To express opinion	Mean	1.94	1.33	2.33	2.13	1.80	.155
	S.D	.725	.577	.967	.641		

**Table 15 Age vs family Problems of respondents**

Factors		Below 20	21-30	31-40	41-50	50 and above	F.	Sig
Financial	Mean	2.00	2.42	2.39	2.28	2.40	.458	.766
	S.D	1.000	.634	.562	.575	.516		
Housing	Mean	2.67	2.58	2.33	2.17	2.50	1.056	.385
	S.D	.577	.643	.767	.786	.707		
Drinking	Mean	2.00	2.31	2.33	2.00	2.60	1.407	.241
	S.D	1.000	.736	.594	.767	.483		
House hold facilities	Mean	2.33	2.54	2.39	2.22	2.70	.942	.445
	SD	.577	.706	.778	.732	.834		

**Table 16 Caste vs family Problems of respondents**

Factors		SC	ST	BC	OC	F.	Sig
Financial	Mean	2.17	2.67	2.37	2.63	1.515	.218
	S.D	.514	.577	.610	.518		
Housing	Mean	2.33	2.67	2.37	2.75	.836	.479
	S.D	.626	.577	.771	.463		
Drinking	Mean	2.17	2.33	2.33	2.13	.338	.798
	S.D	.707	1.155	.701	.641		
House hold facilities	Mean	2.33	2.33	2.50	2.38	.288	.834
	SD	.767	1.155	624	.916		

**Table 17 age vs comparison between other DWERA**

Factors		Below 20	21-30	31-40	41-50	50 and above	F.	Sig
Leadership	Mean	2.00	1.88	1.72	1.72	2.00	1.283	.285
	S.D	.000	.326	.461	.461	.471		
Unity	Mean	1.67	1.85	1.56	1.67	1.90	1.660	.169
	S.D	.577	.368	.511	.985	.361		
Unanimity	Mean	1.67	1.69	1.67	1.61	1.50	.360	.873
	S.D	.577	.471	.485	.502	.527		
Punctuality	Mean	2.00	1.73	1.44	1.56	1.70	1.567	.193
	S.D	.000	.452	.511	.511	.483		
Financial matters	Mean	1.33	1.69	1.67	1.67	1.80	.538	.708
	S.D	.577	.549	.485	.485	.527		

Benefits from Government progmmes	Mean	1.67	1.73	1.67	1.67	1.80	.149	.963
	S.D	.577	.549	.485	.485	.527		
Solution of the problems	Mean	2.00	1.92	1.72	1.56	1.90	1.661	.169
	S.D	.000	.484	.575	.511	.568		
Imitative social things	Mean	1.33	1.73	1.78	1.61	1.40	.785	.539
	S.D	.577	.677	.732	.608	.699		

**Table 18 age vs comparison between other DWCRA**

Factors		SC	ST	BC	OC	F.	Sig
Leadership	Mean	1.83	2.00	1.83	1.75	.259	.855
	S.D	.383	.000	.437	.463		
Unity	Mean	1.61	2.00	1.76	1.75	.869	.461
	S.D	.502	.000	.431	.463		
Unanimity	Mean	1.44	1.67	1.72	1.63	1.404	.249
	S.D	.511	.577	.455	.518		
Punctuality	Mean	1.33	1.67	1.72	1.75	3.138	.031
	S.D	.485	.577	.455	.463		
Financial matters	Mean	1.50	1.67	1.67	1.75	.636	.594
	S.D	.514	.577	.519	.463		
Benefits from government progmmes	Mean	1.61	1.67	1.76	1.63	.441	.724
	S.D	.502	.577	.524	.518		
Solution of the problems	Mean	1.61	1.67	1.85	1.88	.997	.399
	S.D	.502	.577	.556	.354		
Imitative social things	Mean	1.50	2.33	1.67	1.88	1.714	.172
	S.D	.514	.577	.711	.641		

**Table 19 impact of the DWCRA progmmme on Respondents**

Particulars	Frequency	Percent
Financial	28	37.3
Social	23	30.7
House hold	5	6.7
House repair	5	6.7
All the above	14	18.6
Total	75	100

**Impact of DWCRA**

- Financial
- Social
- House hold
- House repair
- All the above
- Total

**6. SUGGESTION**

Respondents should be given training for improving knowledge and skills timely and adequate supply of information and resources creating awareness about other opportunities etc. as far as DWCRA official are concerned field workers strength is to be increased for ensuring adequate attention to target groups. Finally, it is suggested to establish taluk level training centre to leaders and members.

**7. CONCLUSION**

Women were becoming more aware of their rights and more socially responsibilities DWCRA progmmme had made rural women realize the importance of education. The number of girls going to schools are also increased due to awareness. The result shows that DWCRA members were able to provide an additional income to their families,

overcome some of the social and family problems etc. rural women are to be educated about the benefit they derived after joining the DWCRA groups through different agencies. Finally, it was generally accepted that the DWCRA programme had been successful in bringing about much needed change and awareness among the rural women.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

None.

### **REFERENCES**

Rao Kesava, Face to Face with rural women, The Hindu March 18 2001

The IRDP Programme report initiated by government of India in 1979-79 report.

The reports of UNICEF 1.1.1996

D.M Sheaba Rani “ micro finance through DWCRA. July –dec 2008 osmania Journal of international business studies. Pp 20-30.