



GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

REPORT
ON
THE QUICK EVALUATION STUDY OF
THE DWCR PROGRAMME
IN MEGHALAYA

ISSUED BY
THE DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS, STATISTICS & EVALUATION
MEGHALAYA

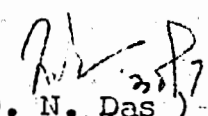
Preface

The Quick evaluation study of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) scheme in Meghalaya was taken up in the month of July, 1990 by the Evaluation wing of the Directorate of Economics, Statistics & Evaluation at the instance of Government of Meghalaya.

The field Work of the study had to be completed in less than two week's time with five intervening holidays so that the study report could be made ready before the ensuing State level seminar on the DWCRA scheme slated for 1st to 3rd August, 1990. This constraint of time, badly affected the quality of Evaluation work. Many of concerned functionaries could not be met for discussion on the scheme. So also, large majority of the members could not be contacted to seek for their opinion. Some important records both at the project level as well as at Group level could not be consulted, making it difficult to give authenticated views on some points. In spite of these limitations it is hoped that the report will succeed in providing some insight into the functioning of the scheme at the grass-root level and will enable the Departments concerned to take appropriate action for successful implementation of the scheme.

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the help and cooperation extended by the Officers and Staff of D. R. D. A., Nongstoin and Williamnagar, the Group Organisers and members and others concerned, in conducting the study.

July, 1990.


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Chapter : 1

Introduction

1.1 : The Scheme "Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)" was formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture etc., Government of India in 1983-84 as a sub-scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme. The basic objectives of the DWCRA scheme were (i) to provide income generating activities to Rural Women which will have a positive impact on economic and nutritional status of the family and (ii) to provide an organisational support in terms of receiving system for the assisted women so that they may become effective recipient of goods and services available from the area.

In Meghalaya the DWCRA scheme was started in two districts viz. West Khasi Hills district and East Garo Hills district with effect from 1985-86.

1.2 : The Scheme components :

i) Formation of Groups :

The Scheme envisages formation of groups of 15-20 women of families below the poverty line. The women are expected to come together for an economic activity of mutual interest to all. The group selects a group-organiser who is to take up the responsibility of liason work.

The group in addition to taking up economic activities under the DWCRA scheme, is expected to develop into a receiving system which will be effective in obtaining benefits meant for the target groups. In other words, the group should be able to take up facilities available for its members not only in the rural development programmes, but also schemes offered by other Government departments.

Pattern of assistance :

(a) Under the scheme each group is to get Rs.15000.00 as one time grant contribution, contributed in equal measure by the Central Government, the State Government and the UNICEF which is to be used as :

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i) revolving fund for the purchase of raw materials and marketing.

ii) honorarium to group organiser which may not exceed Rs.50.00 per month for a period of one year.

iii) infrastructure support (seed money) for income generating activities, like workshed, equipment, furnitures/fitting etc.

iv) one-time expenditure on child care facilities.

(b) Travelling Allowance @ Rs.200/- for one year for the group organiser.

Selection of activities : All viable activities should be identified by the Groups suitably assisted by the Gram-Sevika, Mukhya Sevika and A.P.O. while selecting activities it should be ensured that the backward-forward linkages for the selected projects are available in the area.

2) Multipurpose Community Centre :

Under the Scheme a Multipurpose Community Centre is to be established in each DWCRA block to be used as a training and production centre. The UNICEF provides cost of materials and equipment of these centres up to Rs.50,000.00 per centre.

The programme lays utmost stress on training, motivation, attitudinal change and awareness building at all levels viz. members of the group, group organiser, Gram Sevikas, A.P.Os. etc. Training programme has to be organised for functionaries charged with the responsibilities of implementation of the DWCRA scheme. The functionaries upto the level of Assistant Project Officer are to be imparted training at least once during a year. The skill training required for the beneficiaries are to be organised under TRYSEM.

3) Staff :

The scheme provides for the following staffing pattern :

At the District level, one Assistant Project Officer, preferably a woman, to assist the Project Officer DRDA and to supervise closely the implementation of the scheme. The A.P.O. is to be assisted by a Gram Sevika (DWCRA).

4) Monitoring and Evaluation :

The DWCRA being a sub-scheme of I.R.D.P., the major responsibility to plan, implement and monitoring the scheme of DWCRA is entrusted to the DRDA. The scheme also envisages on-going participative evaluation of the programme through periodic discussion between the group, of the Gram Sevika and other functionaries of the Scheme.

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Chapter : 2

Objectives and Methodology of the Study :

2.1. : In view of the need to complete the study quickly in about a fortnights time, the study was taken up with the limited objectives of :-

- i) to assess the working of the scheme at the district level
- ii) to examine the extent of support given to the beneficiary groups
- iii) to study the extent of economic activities taken up by the beneficiary groups.
- iv) to assess, in a limited way, the impact of the scheme on the economic condition of the beneficiaries.

2.2. : Methodology of the Study :

The study covered both the DWCRAs districts of West Khasi Hills district and the East Garo Hills district. The study consisted of (i) collection of detail information from the DRDA level on coverage, content and progress under the scheme, management and modus-operandi of the scheme in the districts and (ii) detail enquiry of Group activities in a sample of beneficiary DWCRAs Groups. It was planned to take up 20 p.c. of the beneficiary groups subject to a maximum of 20 groups in each district, randomly selected, for the purpose of group level enquiry. The group level enquiry consisted interalia of collecting information on the type of economic activity taken up, functioning of these economic enterprises utilisation of assistance received, input and output, participation by members in the activities of the enterprise, maintenance of records and accounts. In addition, attempt was made to elicit opinion on functioning of the group from the members of the selected group, one drop-out member of the group (if any) and one or two knowledgeable non-members of the village.

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In actual practice, however 15 Sample groups from the West Khasi Hills district and 18 Groups from East Garo Hills could be taken up for group level enquiry. This gives a sampling coverage of 21 p.c. in respect of West Khasi Hills district and 10 p.c. in respect of East Garo Hills districts.

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Chapter : 3Working of DWCRA Scheme at District Level :

3.1. : The DWCRA Scheme is in operation in all the Development Blocks of both the districts of West Khasi Hills and East Garo Hills.

3.2. : As per the norms of the original schemes, 30 groups are to be formed per block for reaching the saturation point. As per this norms both the districts with four development blocks each should set up 120 groups each. As against this, as the following table shows, the West Khasi Hills district has organised so far 70 groups and the East Garo Hills district as many as 179 groups. It needs however be mentioned that out of 179 groups formed in East Garo Hills district, as many as 74 groups formed in the year 1987 and 1988, are yet to receive any assistance. ^{Yearwise number of Groups formed in the} two districts are shown in the following table :

Table : 1

Year	No. of Groups		
	West Khasi Hills	East Garo Hills	Total
1.	2.	3.	4.
1985-86	-	30	30
1986-87	30	45	75
1987-88	-	24	24
1988-89	40	50	90
1989-90	-	30	30
1990-91	-	-	-
Total :	70	179	249

3.2 : The Development Block wise Distribution of these groups are as below :

Table : 2

Development Block	No. of Groups
<u>West Khasi Hills</u>	
1. Mawshynrut	30
2. Nongstoin	6
3. Mawkyrwat	6
4. Mairang	6
<u>East Garo Hills</u>	
1. Samanda	36
2. Songsak	36
3. Dambo-Rongjeng	71
4. Resubelpara	36
	249

3.3. : Distribution of groups by type of activity proposed :

Judging from the activities taken up by the groups, it appears that activities like Tailoring, Piggery, Cane and Bamboo works are more popular activities among the groups in West Khasi Hills while the popular activities in East Garo Hills are Weaving, Piggery, Goatery, Pine-apple and banana cultivation. The following table shows the activities taken up by different groups under the DWCR.

Table : 3

No. of groups taking up the activity

Activity	West Khasi Hills	East Garo Hills	Total
1.	2.	3.	4.
1. Weaving	9	45	54
2. Tailoring	13	7	20
3. Piggery	6	37	43
4. Goatery	1	24	25
5. Knitting	12	7	19
6. Poultry Keeping	2	9	11
7. Grocery	3	-	3
8. Duckery	1	5	6
9. Cane & Bamboo Work	7	-	7
10. Fishery	3	1	4
11. Broom Stick	6	-	6
12. Tea Stall	4	-	4
13. Soap making	2	-	2
14. Slate making	1	-	1
15. Banana cultivation	-	14	14
16. Pineapple cultivation	-	24	24
17. Bee-Keeping	-	3	3
18. Sericulture	-	3	3
Total :	70	179	249

3.4. : Formation of Groups :

The target group of DWCRA are same like the target groups of IRDP that is the families below poverty line.

In West Khasi Hills, the existing women's organisations are approached for forming Women's Groups for the DWCRA scheme with Women from families below the poverty line. Most of the Groups are reported to have been formed in this manner.

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In East Garo Hills on the other hand, the selection of DWCRA beneficiary Groups is done on the spot in villages by the Gram Sevika of the Block, sometimes in presence of the A.P.O. (DWCRA), from the poorest of the poor families. They hold meeting with them, discuss and explain to them about the scheme of the DWCRA and form the Group. The Group selects one scheme according to their own choice, mostly based on locally available resources and marketing facility in the area. One Group Organiser is also selected then and there.

3.5. : Assistance to groups :

As already stated each group is to be given an assistance valued at Rs.15200/- to be used as (i) revolving fund, (ii) honorarium and T.A. to Group Organiser in the 1st year, (iii) infrastructural support and (iv) child care facilities.

The Scale and mode of assistance given by the two DRDAs are briefly stated below :

(a) West Khasi Hills :

As per data made available by the DRDA, out of the total assistance of Rs.15200/- to be given to each group, Rs.11765/- is earmarked for one time grant contribution for activity and Rs.3435/- is for honorarium and T.A. to the group organiser. According to the pattern, each group is entitled to only Rs.800/- as honorarium and T.A. for the group organiser. The reason for allotting a large sum of Rs.3435/- as against the due amount of Rs.800/- for this purpose is not understood. Out of the amount of Rs.11765/- meant for one time grant assistance, amount ranging roughly between Rs.3860/- to 9980/- is given to different activity groups in kind. This leaves a balance of around between Rs.5900/- to 2800/- out of the total of Rs.15200/- to be given to different activity groups as revolving fund or Cash assistance for remaining infrastructure items. It was observed that till now this cash provision is yet to be made available to the groups.

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It would appear from a letter issued by the DRDA Nongstoin dated 14th July'90 that release of this fund is pending completion of some formalities by the groups like opening of Joint Bank Account, required certificates etc. The amount of revolving fund and cash amount for other infrustruc-tural items due to different groups as indicated in the above circular are as below :

Activity Group	Revolving fund (Rs.0.00)	Other expenditure (Rs.0.00)
1.	2.	3.
1. Grocery Shop	900.00	Rs.1000.00 for rent
2. Tea Stall	794.00	Rs.1000.00 for rent and Rs.1000.00 for activity.
3. Knitting	500.00	
4. Tailoring	500.00	
5. Broom stick Cultivation	500.00	Rs.450.00 for clearing of 1½ hectares of land and Rs.700.00 as labour charges for plantation.
6. Fisheries	620.00	Rs.2675.00 for digging of pond.
7. Poultry	538.00	
8. Duckery	538.00	

The approximate break up of value of assistance given to different activity groups in kind is shown in the following table :-

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Table No. 4
Purpose of assistance (Rs. 0.00)

Type of activity	Infrastruc- ture (Equip- ments, tools, furnitures/ fixures etc.)	Raw- materials	Child- Care facili- ties	Total
1. Tailoring	3429.00	2540.00	3200.00	9169.00
2. Knitting	2942.00	3350.00	3100.00	9392.00
3. Weaving	3432.00	1600.00	3100.00	8132.00
4. Grocery	-	7490.00	2380.00	9870.00
5. Broom Stick	2965.00	3000.00	2380.00	8345.00
6. Fishery	-	4275.00	2380.00	6655.00
7. Poultry	1522.00	5600.00	2380.00	9502.00
8. Piggery	800.00	5700.00	2380.00	8880.00
9. Goatery	5400.00	600.00	2380.00	8380.00
10. Tea Stall	4013.00	-	2330.00	6393.00
11. Duckery	1162.00	5600.00	2380.00	9142.00
12. Cane & Bamboo Works	2677.00	1187.00	2620.00	6484.00

3.6. : Important items of assistance in kind for some activities are broadly illustrated below :

Activity	Important Items
1. Tailoring	Sewing machine - 2, Scissors 10, measuring tape 10, long scale 8, thread, button, needle, cloth : 100 metres approximately and child care articles. (Child care articles, in case of most of the activity groups consist of Portable cradles; 3, wheel baby cycle, : 2, Plastic dolls, pictorials, Slate, chalk, toys, table and chairs.
2. Knitting	Knitting machine : 1, Wool (big and small): 15 Kg, and child care articles.
3. Weaving	Loom : 2 sets, Scissors, yarn : 4 bundles, cushions, childcare articles.
4. Grocery	Grocery & Stationery articles, weighing scale and child care articles.
5. Broom Stick	Broom stick ships, wooden post : 80, barbed wire : 1.5 qtl., and child care articles.
6. Poultry/Piggery/Goatery	Pullets & cockrel : 120 Nos./cross bred boars & gilt : 30/Deed buck: 9, feed, fencing materials, feeding through etc., child care articles.

(b) East Garo Hills :

In East Garo Hills, on the other hand, the entire amount of Rs.15200/- due to each group, is released in cash which the groups are supposed to spend on per-missible items.

3.7. : Channelising of assistance :

In West Khasi Hills, the assistance in kind to different activity groups under DWCRA scheme are supplied to the groups by the approved suppliers through the Block Development Officers. The amounts meant for revolving fund are to be transferred to Joint Saving Bank Account opened in the name of the secretary of the Organisation and the Group Organiser.

In East Garo Hills, the DRDA releases the amount of Rs.15200/- for each Group to the Block Development Officer who disburses the amount to the Group in cash. The Group on receipt of the money deposit it in the Bank account opened jointly in the name of the Group Organiser and the Gram Sevika of the Block. The Groups have to pass resolution for drawing of money from this account and drawal is possible only on approval of the Block Development Officer. In general, purchase of permissible materials is to made from suppliers appointed by the Block Development Officers.

3.8. : Multipurpose Centre :

In West Khasi Hills district, the multipurpose community centre was set up at Riango in the year 1987-88 involving a total construction cost of Rs.1.70 lakhs. It has also received UNICEF Assistance of Rs.50000/-. The centre has so far conducted only one training course of 5 days duration. 30 Group Organisers and about 300 Group members were trained. Besides training, the centre is being used as a Nursery School (morning shift) for children, social meets, gathering and for holding various meetings. The maintenance of the centre is done by the Women Organisation of Riango.

In East Garo Hills district, the construction of the Community centre involving a total cost of Rs.1.61 lakhs has been completed only in 1989-90 and is yet to start its activities.

3.9. : Allocation and Utilisation of Fund :

Year-wise fund released to the two DRDAs under the DMCRA Scheme and their utilisation are given in the following table :

Table : 5

Year	Administrative expenses at project level	For Scheme on account of Groups	Multi-purpose Community Centre	Administrative expenses at project level of Groups	For Scheme on account of Groups	Multi-purpose Community Centre	Rema
1985-86	6020.00	5,53,000/-	1,25,000/-	-	4,40,560/-	1,70,028/-	-
1986-87	-	2,50,000/-	-	24,803.65	1,66,852/-	-	-
1987-88	-	2,00,000/-	-	26,230.00	1,07,632/-	-	-
1988-89	-	2,02,000/-	-	43,951.95	1,32,453/-	-	-
1989-90	-	2,02,000/-	-	37,459.20	-	-	-
1990-91	1,10,213/-	-	-	2,616.60	-	-	-
(upto July '90)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total :	1,16,233/-	14,07,000/-	1,25,000/-	1,35,061.40	8,37,497/-	1,70,028/-	-
East Garo Hills District							
1985-86	6020.00	5,53,000/-	1,25,000/-	19,157.16	-	50,000/-	-
1986-87	-	2,50,000/-	-	22,245.34	4,56,000/-	74,920.50	-
1987-88	-	2,00,000/-	-	31,535.35	6,75,000/-	35,925.00	-
1988-89	-	2,02,000/-	-	28,775.00	4,56,000/-	959.00	-
1989-90	-	5,05,000/-	-	7,159.00	-	-	-
1990-91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total :	6020.00	17,10,000/-	1,25,000/-	1,08,872.35	15,87,000/-	1,61,824.00	-

From R.L.E.G.P.

These are only annual break up. Actual allotment of fund and expenditure was made only in 1990-91 as reported by the A.P.O.

Chapter IV

Functioning of the Sample Groups

4:1 : As already mentioned 15 Groups from the West Khasi Hills district and 18 Groups from the East Garo Hills district were selected for detail study. Samples were selected from all the development blocks of the two districts. Names of the selected Groups are given in Annexure I.

4:2 : Distribution of these Groups by activity chosen are shown below :

Activity	Table : 1 Number of Groups by Activity		
	West Khasi Hills	East Garo Hills	Total
1. Tailoring	4	1	5
2. Weaving	1	10	11
3. Knitting	2	2	4
4. Poultry keeping	2	1	3
5. Pigery	1	1	2
6. Goatery	-	1	1
7. Tea Stall	3	-	3
8. Grocery	1	-	1
9. Broomstick cultivation	1	-	1
10. Pineapple cultivation	-	1	1
11. Eric-silk rearing	-	1	1
	Total 15	18	33

Number of Groups by the year of formation are indicated below :

Year of formation	No. of Group	
	West Khasi Hills	East Garo Hills
1986-87	7	1
1987-88	1	6
1989-89	6	6
1989-90	1	3
1990-91	-	2

Contd..... 15/-

4:3 : Assistance received by the Groups :

(a) West Khasi Hills

All the 15 ^{selected groups} have received assistance under the scheme. Of the 7 Groups formed in 1986-87, 6 started activities in late 1986-1987 while the remaining one started activity in 1988. All the Groups formed after 1986-87, started their activities either in 1989 or in early 1990, reportedly because of late receipt of assistance.

Nine of the 15 selected Groups received, besides assistance in kind, cash assistance ranging between Rs. 200 to Rs. 600 as carrying charges. The remaining 6 Groups received assistance only in kind. Non-receipt of cash amount as revolving fund or for payment of rent etc, was reported to be a major difficulty in carrying out activities by some of the Groups. Some reported that they were not aware of the procedures and formalities to be performed by them for getting the cash money.

As regards assistance received in kind by the Groups, the quantity of materials received by the Groups as reported by them (as also seen from the stock register maintained by some of them) was found to be at variance with the quantity supposed to be given to them as per list furnished by the project authority. For instance, of the two poultry keeping Groups, one reported to have received only Rs. 450/- as cash with which they purchased 30 fowls (as against the scale of 120 pullts & cockrels valued at Rs. 4200/-) and did not receive any poultry feed; while the other Group reported to have received 35 Nos. of chicks and 50 Kg of chicken feed. Similar variations were also found in respect of other permissible materials. The two knitting Groups reported receiving knitting machines as per scale but much less quantity of wool (one received 6 Kg and the other 1½ kg as against the prescribed scale of 15 Kg). Variations were reported by almost all Groups except the weaving and the Grocery Groups. However, it may be that, lesser quantity was given initially just to start with training and other initial works.

A few of the Groups also complained of the poor quality of some of the materials supplied.

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(b) East Garo Hills

In the East Garo Hills, out of 18 selected Groups, 6 Groups (one formed in 1986-87, one in 1987-88 and 4 formed in 1988-89) are yet to receive assistance under the DWCRS scheme. The remaining 12 Groups received assistance starting from 1987. It was seen that all 12 Groups received cash amount and deposited amounts ranging between Rs.15000/- to Rs.15200/- each in the bank. It was seen from the Passbooks, that the Groups have withdrawn and spent Rs. 1,28,409.40 for their enterprises, leaving a balance of Rs.57,968.84 in the bank. It was seen that no sale proceed was deposited in the bank except for two Groups who deposited Rs.300/- and Rs.4008.45 respectively.

The procurement of materials is done by the Groups apparently with prior consultation with the B.D.O. The Articles purchased by different Groups are illustrated below :

1. Weaving Groups : One Group purchased 5 sets of looms while the other two, 3 looms each. Yarn purchased by each range between Rs.5000/- to Rs.9675/-.
2. Knitting : Each of the two Groups purchased two knitting machine each valued at Rs.5994/-, knitting accessories and wool varying between Rs.469 to Rs.2550/- and furniture & fixture below Rs.1000/- each.
3. Tailoring : The tailoring group purchased one sewing machine with accessories, C.I. sheet & timber for shed, furnitures & fixtures, and raw materials like cloth and threads.
4. Eri-silk rearing : This Group purchased barbed wire worth Rs.5800/-, spinning & rearing equipments worth Rs.7500/-, Eri-seed worth Rs.200/- and chemicals worth Rs.202/-.
5. Piggery : This Group purchased 9 piglets costing Rs.2670/- feeding equipments etc for Rs.1075/- and food & medicine worth Rs.4000/-.

Contd.....17/-

6. Goatery : This Group has spent Rs. 2136/- for purchasing construction materials for the goat-shed.

7. Pineapple Cultivation : This Group has spent Rs.3000/- for suckers, Rs.19987/- for manures & fertilisers, Rs.3365/- for cultivation implements & equipments and Rs.2430/- for clearing of jungle.

4.4 : Performances of the Groups

(a) West Khasi Hills :

i) Tailoring Groups :

All the four Groups studied, are somehow continuing their enterprises. But, for want of accommodation, three of the Groups have kept their sewing machines in houses of some members and any members who want to stitch, go there to work. Members usually work in rotation. Number of members usually working daily and numbers of hours worked daily in these enterprises, as reported, are indicated below :

	<u>Average No. of members working</u>	<u>Average No. of hours worked</u>
1st Group :	2 members daily	1 -2 hrs. daily
2nd Group :	2 members daily	4 -5 hrs daily
3rd Group :	2 members two times a week	4 hrs daily
4th Group	4-5 members daily	2 -3 hrs daily

No record is kept of the Quantum of productions made. The Groups however reported that they have used all the raw materials given to them and have stitched garments and sold them. The total value of turnover as reported by three Groups was a small sum of less than Rs.3500/- only.

ii) Weaving Group : This group appears to be most promising. They have constructed a small shed though they have not received any assistance for this purpose. Reportedly all the members participate in the enterprise. They work thrice a week and have been able to produce shawls, bags, jain-kyrshah etc. The value of outturn during 1988 was reported as Rs.1325.50.

iii) Knitting Groups : Only two Groups were interviewed. The Group at Riando, it appears, is functioning relatively better. The unit is housed in the Community Centre and all members reportedly take active interest. Usually 2 members attend daily on rotation and works on an average 4 hours daily. However no record of production or sale could be produced. In the other Group, only the Group Organiser is running the trade as she is the only one trained. Some other members reportedly come at their own conveniences.

iv) Pigery Unit : Only one Group was interviewed. The Group received 10 piglets. As long as the feed supplied to Group lasted, the piglets were kept in one sty belonging to one of the members. But as soon as the feed exhausted, the piglets were distributed among the members. It was learnt that out of 10 piglets, only 7 are surviving. Since piglets were received recently, no output is achieved upto now.

v) Poultry Unit : Two Groups were studied. One of the Groups purchased 30 chicks with Rs.450/- given to them (besides other item given in kind) and are rearing these chicks. The Group started activity recently and no output is made upto now. As regards the other Group, they received 30 chicks and also feed. However, most of the chicks died soon after, reportedly, because the chicks were too small and not suitable to the place. Both the Groups distributed the chicks among the members.

- vii) Broom-stick Cultivation : Only one Group was interviewed. The Group received only some fencing materials and no cash nor any seedling (ship). Since this activity was in existence prior to formation of the Group under the DWCR, the activity is continuing. The Group however could not give any information on value output.
- viii) Tea stall Group : Three Groups were interviewed. The activity of one of the Group appeared to be a family affair. The unit was functioning before formation of the Group. The woman running the shop received assistance under the DWCR scheme recently. The shop is still running but no accounts are maintained. The Second Group received the assistance recently and has kept the materials as assistance, in the house of the Group Organiser and is reportedly waiting for A.P.O. to come and give here necessary instruction and guidance. The third Group also received the assistance recently but has not been able to start activity awaiting some cash for opening of the shop.
- viii) Grocery shop Group : The activity of the Group started in 1989 in the locality. But as the shop did not run well, it was later shifted to the market place. Initially, all the members, took active interest in the activity and participated in the trade on rotation but since the shop did not run well the member lost interest. Now the Group Organiser is running the shop. No record of sale and purchase are maintained. Reportedly the sale proceeds are utilised for purchase of commodities for the shop and a sum of Rs.10/- is set apart daily as salary of the Organiser.

(b) East Garo Hills

As already mentioned earlier, of the 18 Groups selected, six Groups have not yet received assistance and have not started activities. Out of the 2 Groups who received assistance and started their activities, two have become defunct by now. One of these is a weaving Group and the other a Piggery Group. The reason given for the closure of the Weaving Group is that the three looms purchased by them in the later part of 1987-88, became defective after one year's use and the activities stopped. Reportedly none of the Group members had any skill of handling these looms and so these were

used only for training purposes. Training was imparted by an outsider. As regards the Piggery unit started in 1987-88, the reason advance for closure was the cancellation of the lease of land given to them by the land-owner. The pass book with the organiser showed a deposit of Rs.300/- on 23/2/89 said to be the sale proceeds of the pigs.

The current activities of the remaining 10 Groups are briefly mentioned below :

1. Weaving Groups : One of the two Groups, appears to be a promising one. Though the quantity of cloth produced is not recorded, they are reported to have produced appreciable quantity of 'Dakmanda' and their pass-book shows a deposit of Rs.4008.45 said to be the sale proceeds. The members also reportedly take active interest. In the other Group, the members are still learning and is yet to start commercial production. It was found that two of the three looms of the Group were not in working condition and need repairing.
2. Knitting Group : In one of the two Groups interviewed, only one member has the necessary skill of using the knitting machine. Other members are only learning now. So that this Group as to say is still in training phase. It appears out of two machines only one machine is in use. They have produced only a few Baby-suits. The other Group appears to be doing satisfactory work. They have knitted, as could be seen from their store, sizeable number of children dresses, sweaters, socks, caps etc. The articles are however yet to be sold, which they say are meant for the ^{Coming} season.
3. Tailoring Group : The only tailoring Group interviewed, appears to be functioning moderately well. They have got only one sewing machine and with this they have prepared quite a number of blouses, frocks, pillow covers etc. No record of quantity produced and sale proceeds however was maintained.

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4. Bri-silk rearing : Only one Group was interviewed. The Group is engaged in the activity chosen by them. Seeds purchased by the Group are distributed among the members for rearing. The cocoons produced are reportedly pooled together for sale. They have reportedly produced 6 kg of cocoons in the last season. The Organisation is now diversifying their activities to spinning also and has procured four spinning machines. The members are now undergoing training under the guidance of the local sericultural demonstrator.
5. Goatery Group : The Group has only constructed a shed at a cost of Rs.2650/-. Animals are yet to be procured.
6. Pineapple cultivation Group : The Group has started pineapple cultivation in about an acre of land. The plants are bearing fruit bearing stage. The condition of maintenance of the garden appears to be unsatisfactory as the plants are covered with dense weeds and creepers.

4.5 : Accommodation

In West Khasi Hills, as already indicated out of 10 Groups, as many as 8 tailoring, knitting and poultry Groups do not have separate accommodation to run their activities, which reportedly has been a great hindrance in carrying on their activities.

In West Garo Hills, lack of accommodation has not been a big handicap as the Groups have found accommodation for their activities either in the C-D Block campus or in private houses or even constructed their own shed.

4.6 : Maintenance of Records & Registers :

The Groups are supposed to maintain some records and registers like stock Register, cash book, proceedings books of meetings and attendance Register. Registers are there but these were not maintained properly.

4.7 : Supervision of Group activities :

In West Khasi Hills, all the Groups except one reported that functionaries of the DRDA and Block visited their concern. In one or two cases, even the Deputy Commissioner accompanied by the A.P.O. paid a visit.

In East Garo Hills, all the Groups reported visit by functionaries either from DRDA or from the Blocks.

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Chapter V

Conclusion :

From the present level of activities and performances of the different Groups as described above, it is clear that financial gain derived from the activities ^{by} of the members of the Groups has remained negligible. It cannot, however be said that the scheme of DWCA has not made any impact. It has been observed that a few of the Groups at least are highly motivated and have taken up their activities with due earnestness. Most of these Groups started their activities not long ago and are in their formative stages. Given due Organizational support and guidance, there is promise that these Groups will flourish and bring financial gain to the members in due course. The performance of majority of the Groups are however not satisfactory. The reasons for this, it appears are :-

- i) The Groups are not well^{ly} organised and motivated to work together for mutual benefit.
- ii) Lack of proper awareness about the scheme and its benefits due to illiteracy of the members in general.
- iii) Inadequate skill training to the members.
- iv) Inadequate housing accommodation and non-receipt of cash money as revolving fund and for construction/rent of sheds etc. particularly in West Khasi Hills.
- v) Inadequate supervision and guidance to Groups.

Greater emphasis should therefore be given for education and training of the members so as to motivate them for Group activities and to enable them to equip them with necessary skills to take up their activities. Steps need be taken to activate the Groups which are defunct or in moribund condition, if necessary by making available assistance from other development schemes. Supervision should be intensified so that solutions to problems and difficulties experienced by the Groups may be removed timely. While it may not be justified to burden the Groups with too much of paper works, utmost urgency should be attached to maintenance of

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the minimum records and accounts including output record so as to avoid possible misunderstanding and friction among the members. It is also desirable to suggest some model rules for pooling of resources from and division of income among the members of the Groups. Cash money should be released to the Groups in West Khasi Hills as early as possible.

In order to enable effective supervision and guidance to the Groups, the post of Gramsevika under A.P.O in each of the DRDAs should ~~be created~~.

The Groups thus far do not appear to have succeeded in developing themselves as a receiving system, in as much as most members are not seen to have received any assistance from other development schemes. The reason may be that the Groups are yet to establish firmly in their own activities.

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Annexure - I

List of Sample Groups

No.	Name of Groups	C.D Block	Year of formation	Year of starting activity
<u>WEST KHASI HILLS</u>				
1.	Klangrin DWCR	Mawshynrut	1986-87	1987
2.	Seinduii "	"	1986-87	1986
3.	Riangdo "	"	1986-87	1988
4.	Riangdo "	"	1986-87	1986
5.	Mawthengkut "	"	1986-87	1987
6.	Banglaphuh "	"	1986-87	1987
7.	Riangsih "	"	1987-88	1987
8.	Nongdiengkain "	"	1986-87	1987
9.	Nyndo "	"	1988-89	1990
10.	Jei Doh DWCR	Hongstein	1988-89	1988
11.	Ladweitang "	"	1988-89	1989
12.	Mawnai DWCR	Mairang	1988-89	1989
13.	Kynshi "	"	1988-89	1990
14.	Umpung "	Mawkyrwat	1988-89	1990
15.	Manai/Panshiring "	"	1988-89	1990

EAST GARO HILLS

1.	Dohedgol giri women Organisation	Samanta	1989-90	Not yet started
2.	Rongrang Chadekgiri Mahila Samity	"	1989-90	"
3.	Samind Chenemgiri Women Organisation	"	1988-89	"
4.	Samanda Dalwari Women Organisation	"	1988-89	"
5.	Rongsakgre Mahila Samity	"	1989-90	1989-90
6.	Bansanggre Mahila Samity	"	1989-90	1989-90
7.	Tibil Binagiri	Songsak	1987-88	Not yet Started
8.	Banagre Women Organisation	"	1988-89	"

Contd.....

	1.	2.	3.	4.
9. Songsak Ballongre Women Organisation	Songsak	1988-89	1989-90	
10. Songsak Agalgre Women Organisation	"	1988-89	Not yet started	
11. Nongchram Women Mahila Samity	Dambo Rongjeng	1987-88	1987-88	
12. Rongjem Mahila Samity	"	1987-88	1987	
13. Darugiri Mahila Samity	"	1987-88	1987-88	
14. Darugre Reserve Women Welfare Organisation	"	1989-90	1989-90	
15. Rongmil Mahila Samity	"	1987-88	1987-88	
16. Lower Sambrak Mahila Samity	"	1987-88	1990-91	
17. Adokgiri Mother's Union	"	1988-89	1989-90	
18. Bangsi Apal Women Organisation	"	1986-87	Not yet started.	

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