

# MINOR RESEARCH PROGRAMME

By

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**“Operational Viability of Women Cooperative Society in Puttur Taluk of Dakshina Kannada District”**

## *Executive summary*

### **Introduction:**

Mahatma Gandhi who is respected as the father of the nation in our country, once remarked, “As long as women of India do not the part in public life, there can be no salvation for the country”.It is believed that economic strength is the basis for social, political and psychological power in the society. Therefore, women gain visibility and voice, if they gain economic strength. Empowerment of women is essential to acquire economic strength.

In his opinion, a harmonious progress of the society very much depends on the participation of women in its activities. According to the survey of the Government of India, ‘women in India constitute close to 50% of the total population. In spite of this, their participation in economic activities is just 34%’.- Hence for the growth and development of a nation it is essential to bring womenfolk of the country to the main stream.

### **Empowerment of women - The need**

Women get empowered when they are provided with opportunities to develop and realize their entrepreneurial talents, hone their managerial skills, participate in the possible avenues of empowerment in the rural areas, such as agricultural operations, poultry farming, sheep rearing, dairying, firewood cutting and so on.

### **Women’s Co-operative Society – A tool for women empowerment**

Co-operatives provide women with abundant opportunities to involve themselves in the decision making process and in gaining economic independence which are at the root of empowerment.

Therefore co- operatives can be an approach to integrated development, enhancing status of disadvantaged and marginalized women and utilizing women to play a significant role in the process of collective action. Experience shows that, there are a number of co-operatives owned, controlled and managed by women successfully. Women have proved themselves as good managers as well as entrepreneurs by balancing responsibilities between home and business organization like co-operatives.

### **Objectives of the study :**

The present study “Operational Viability Of Women Cooperative Society In Puttur Taluk Of Dakshina Kannada District”, will throw light on the origin and development of women cooperatives in Dakshina Kannada District. It evaluates the performance of women multipurpose cooperative society of Puttur.

### **The specific objectives of the study are:**

- To ascertain the origin and growth of women co-operatives in Dakshina Kannada District in general and Puttur in particular.
- To find out the contributions of Women’s Multipurpose Co-operatives to the development sector.
- To evaluate the performance of The Puttur Women’s Multipurpose Co-operatives Society.
- To identify and analyze the problem faced by the Multipurpose Women Co-operative society and to offer suggestions to overcome the problems.

### **Methodology:**

In order to analyze the topic, two sets of questionnaires have been used. Questions have been included to elicit the views about the reasons for low productivity. Direct interviews also have been held with the officers, executives, employees and the management of the Co-operative

Society. To analyze the subject, in addition to questionnaires, published data also have been used.

### **Scope of the study:**

The study is aimed at analyzing the role played by the Multipurpose Women's Co-operative Society of Puttur in Dakshina Kannada District in the field of women empowerment for a period of ten years. Puttur has been selected, as it is the place where the first Women Co-operative Society was established. At present it is the only Women's Multipurpose Co-operative Society functioning successfully in Puttur taluk. The study covers the working of the head office and its branches. The study mainly concentrates on the efficiency of employees. The main reason for taking up this Co-operative Society has been the poor performance of the Society in recent years.

### **Sources of Data:**

The required materials for the study are collected both from primary source and secondary source.

To compile the primary data, in order to carry out this study, well designed questionnaires have been used. The questionnaires were administered to employees and the loan customers to gather the information. A total of all the ten employees and 200 loan customers have been surveyed. These were supported by personal interviews with officers, executives and manager of the Co-operative Society.

The secondary data are mainly drawn from the following sources -

Annual reports of the Department of Co-operation published by Government of Karnataka.

Journal on Co-operative Management of 'Vaikunta Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management'.

Various reports on Co-operatives issued by Government and Reserve Bank of India.

Articles, editorials etc. published in various dailies magazines and journals.

### **Contemporary relevance of the study**

As co-operatives have become the principal instrument for the promotion of socio-economic development of women and in bringing them to the mainstream of the society, any study on their

progress and performance will be of great interest to policy makers, executives, academicians and general public. The present study assumes significance in the light of rising public expectations on Co-operatives and women empowerment and reported failures of co-operatives to meet the fixed targets.

The present study ascertains the role being played by co-operatives. By doing so it will either prove or disapprove the validity of the public criticism.

The findings of the study will be useful to the executives of co-operatives in examining the role played by their respective Co-operative Society and reformulate their policies so as to meet targets.

The study will be of some help to policy makers to improve the performance of Co-operatives Society in promoting the socio-economic empowerment of women.

The study helps the general public particularly women to have the knowledge about the multipurpose services provided by the co-operatives and to make use of it.

It is in this context, the present study is relevant to the contemporary situations.

#### **Whether objectives were achieved:**

The minor research project on the “Operational Viability Of Women Co -operative Society in Puttur Taluk of Dakshina Kannada District”

As enabled the researcher to evaluate the performance of women’s cooperative societies in DK district. It enabled to ascertain the origin and growth of the Puttur women’s multipurpose co-operative society. Through this study the various functions of the society are identified. The study has also enabled to compare the various services provided by the women’s co-operative society to improve the living standard of the members in general and socio economic empowerment of women in particular. To this effect the objectives of the study are achieved.

#### **Achievement from the project:**

#### **Through the present study the researcher has achieved the following**

The study helped the researcher to know the origin and growth of women’s co-operative society in DK district.

The study helped to know the role being played by the Co-operatives thereby it will either prove or disapprove the validity of the public criticism.

The study has helped the researcher to come to the conclusion that there is some relationship between the multipurpose services provided by the society and the empowerment of women.

**Summary of the findings:**

The study has helped the researcher to know the general working of women c-operative societies.

It helped to know the various services provided by the society.

The report states that the majority of the members make use of the various services provided by the society.

The study also states that there is a high degree of relationship between share capital and profit and positive relationship between total salary paid and profit.

The study also reveals that the profitability of the society is low due to low employee productivity in the society.

The present minor research project is divided into 5 main chapters and each chapter is further subdivided into various sections.

The first chapter '**Introduction**' analyses the study design of research study.

The second chapter '**Review of Literature**' throws light on the studies made on Co-operative Societies in India.

The third chapter '**Theoretical frame work**' provides an over view of the origin and growth of Women Co-operatives and also gives a profile of the sample district and sample unit.

The fourth chapter is a core chapter, '**Performance evaluation of Multipurpose Women's Co-operative Society of Puttur**', evaluates the performance of the sample unit.

The chapter 5 '**Summery of Findings and Suggestions**' reveals the summary of findings, suggestions and conclusion

**Contribution to the society:**

The study of women's co-operative society is an important aspect of the minor research project. The Puttur women's multipurpose co-operative society plays a major role in bringing the women section to the main stream of the society.

The study will help the public, specially to the members to know the extent of the services provided by the society and to get the benefits of the same. The government can implement a various women empowerment schemes to the co-operative societies. The study helps the management, directors and the chief executive officers to make a various changes in the working of the society to improve its profitability.