

**EVALUATION REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE
WELFARE EXTENSION PROJECTS OF CENTRAL
SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD, APRIL, 1959**

1. The Study

The Central Social Welfare Board, constituted on August 12, 1953 by a resolution of the Govt. of India in the Ministry of Education, was charged with the function of generally assisting in the improvement and development of social welfare activities in the country. In pursuance of the given objectives, the Central Social Welfare Board had organised its work on four main lines.

1. It offers grants-in-aid to voluntary social service institutions.
2. It originates and conducts welfare Extension Projects in rural areas with the co-operation of local bodies;
- 3.

It sponsors and supervises urban welfare Projects;

Lastly, it takes interest in and helps to fund institutions for social and Moral Hygiene and After Care Services.

The study was confined to the welfare Extension Projects only and was undertaken by the Programme Evaluation organisation (PEO) to assess their functioning. A welfare extension project was a unit of 25 contiguous villages with an average population of 25,000 served by a multipurpose welfare programme relating to women, children and physically handicapped. Each project had five centres, each centre catering to nearly 5 villages.

2.Objectives

To study the working of the Welfare Extension projects.

3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

Detailed investigations were carried out in 31 of the selected projects from a state-wise list of 404 projects as on 1st May, 1957. In order to get a random

sample, one welfare extension project amongst ten was chosen by ticking every tenth on the given statement. When this sample was scrutinized, it was found that some of the projects chosen were very near to each other. Projects were substituted in their place so as to represent & different area of the State. The projects belonging to all States in the country (14 States), except Manipur, Tripura and Pondicherry were, visited.

Reference Period

Not specified in the report.

5. Main Findings

1. The basic idea of establishing welfare centres for women. and children was a sound one and in spite of numerous shortcomings, the centres were working well.

2. In no case the services rendered by the present personnel covered all the villages in a project.

3. The Central Social Welfare Board did not come in day-to-day or even periodic contact with the Welfare Extension Projects.

4. it was found that in about 25% of the sample projects the salaries were not received by the staff for three to eight months.

5. A large majority of the projects had not been visited for very long periods by any member of the State Board or the inspecting staff. It was reported that the work of inspecting the grant-in-aid institutions was so heavy that little time was found to inspect the Welfare extension projects.

6. All the centres had no building of their own. A large number of these were located in rented houses.

7. No member of the Project Implementing Committee had made any contribution on money to any . of the centres or projects.

8. Age and education did not seem as important in the effectiveness of the work of the Chairwoman as the social position of her husband. Some chairwomen were wives of important officials.

9. The chairwomen were generally disliked by the other lady members of the Project Implementing Committee.

10. The literature issued by the Central Social **Welfare Board** emphasised that the various Boards and Committees were made up of non-official representatives, but wives of officials and party executives had almost an official standing.

11. The chairwomen were unable to understand the intricacies of accounting and depended entirely on the Accountant/Clerk at the Project Implementing Committee office, who in consequence had come to occupy in many projects, a very important position.

12. No uniform pattern was followed in respect of posting. In majority of centres, the workers lived in one village and went to work in the neighbouring villages by turns or in pairs. At some centres, the experiment of placing the three workers in three different villages was tried, which appeared to have worked well.

13. The number of services diminished, as the villages were farther from the headquarters.

14. The problem of transport was faced as the area covered by a project was quite considerable. In a majority of projects, the jeep was kept mainly at the Project Implementing Committee's office and used mostly by the Chairwomen.

15. Not all centres had buildings of their own. A large number of them were located in rented houses. As the rented houses generally belonged to well to do people, this made difficult for the untouchables to take advantage of the centres.

6. **Major Suggestions**

1. The project and the centre should be re-organised in such a way that all villages in jurisdiction of the centre could receive most of the services that were available for them.

2. Arrangements should be made to ensure regular payment of salary to the staff

3. The Central Social Welfare Board should leave the nomination of project Implementing Committee's chairwoman entirely to the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards and the Chairperson should fulfil certain minimum conditions in respect of age,, educational qualifications and social attitude.

4. In order to serve all castes and classes and to secure the safety and independence of the village workers, each centre should have its own building located at a proper place. The building should be constructed with the help of the villagers, in a style suited to the region and in such a way as to secure privacy and comfort for the women who come to the centre.

5. In order to induce villagers to make contributions in cash or kind there should be some public recognition of donors.

6. Women with Bachelor's degree or a post-graduate degree in social sciences or social work should be motivated to serve as Mukhya sevikas by offering better service conditions and emoluments.

7. All the village level workers should have the same pay^a as they were doing work which was equally important.

8. Gram Sevikas who have passed the matriculation examination, and have done good work should have some chance of being promoted to become **Mukhya** Sevikas after five years of service.

9. It would be better, if all the welfare work which was being done by the state as well as the Central Government was coordinated to avoid duplication.

10. The non-official agencies which were called in or were instituted to help in welfare work should be really non-official and completely non-political.

11. Medicines was another need of the villagers. People at the main centres wanted more medicines and those in attached villages desired that the medicines should be distributed at their villages at least in a week.

12. The main centres wanted that Balwadis should be developed to include the first two grades of primary schools. The other facilities demanded by the villages were more adequate service of the Dai and distribution of milk.

13. Villages which refuse to cooperate or accommodate the Harijans should not get a centre.

14. Some programmes which we administered separately for men and women should be combined in future.