

5. **Rural Woman and Children Development Programme (DWACRA)** : This programme meant for the development of rural women and children was initiated in 1980. It is a sub-scheme of I.R.D.P. Attempt has been made to improve the economic status of women of rural area belonging to the families of below poverty live. Under this programme a single woman is not selected, rather a group of women is selected for the purpose of development. After training period, opportunities of self-employment are provided to those trained women so that they may improve the income of the family by their contribution.

It was felt that women were not independent economically due to their contribution only in household chores. The need was felt to engage those women during leisure period and to provide them opportunities for self-employment. By means of self-employment, women can raise the family income. Thus, the purpose of this programme was to organize women and to make them independent economically. During the period of training, the selected women are benefited by child development and child welfare programme.

A woman from the women group is selected as the coordinator of this programme. She organises the women to think upon a plan of self employment like egg selling, vegetable selling, rope making, basket making, mat making, etc. Women group is given Rs. 15,000 as working capital to begin the work. Later on, the women group can be given working capital of Rs. 25,000/- for the extension of work. Women are also given subsidy and loan to start the work after training. Working capital is spent in the following ways.

- i. Purchase of raw materials to build goods by the women group.
- ii. Payment of honorarium to the coordinator of the group at the rate of Rs. 50/- per month.