

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOTHERS OF
DISABLED CHILDREN AT SHARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN
DAY CARE CENTERS AT COIMBATORE DISTRICT**

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Abstract

Women's empowerment in India is heavily reliant on many different variables that include environmental location, educational condition, social status and age. Policies of women empowerment exist at the national, state and local levels in numerous sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, gender violent behavior and political contribution. However, there are large gaps between policy advancements and actual practice at the community level. As such, women and girls have constrained mobility, right of entry to education, access to health facilities, lower decision making authority and brutality. Political involvement is also stuck at the Panchayat level and at the state and national levels, despite existing reservations for women. Women who have education they have higher decision making power in the household and the community. Moreover the level of women's education also has a direct inference on maternal mortality rates, nutrition, and health indicators among children. Empowerment makes women to take decisions in her family and support to the society, according to the statement the research study focused on mothers who have physically or mentally impaired children they are not able to live their life happily like other mothers who have normal children in this view what are the things can support the disabled children's mothers to have to become little satisfied of their children's improvement. During my preliminary study I found that SSA day care centers are providing working opportunity to a mother who has disabled child by analyzing the economic condition whose financial

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condition is poor that mother gets an opportunity with full work training. They provide free courses for mothers at SSA day care centers. The study conducted in Coimbatore city focused on SSA day care centers. There are 1787 SSA day care centers are in Coimbatore district consist of 12 blocks it consists 229 villages. Sarcarsamakulam was selected through lottery method for the study it contains eight villages and 56 SSA day care centers. Data was collected through interview schedule method from all the 56 respondents in SSA day care centers. The study reveals result as all respondents are benefited by the SSA, 32 per cent of respondents economically independent, 67 per cent of respondents are satisfied in the job profile given by SSA, 82 percent of respondents are comfortable with their children in SSA day care center and 29 percent of respondents aware about the government schemes and polices for disabled children through the employment.

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1. Introduction

The Constitution of Eighty-sixth Amendment Act 2002 inserted Article 21A in the Constitution provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. The RTE Act makes specific provisions for Special Training for age-appropriate admission for out-of-school children. The RTE Act also provides that such children shall continue to be provided free and compulsory elementary education even after they cross 14 years of age¹. A group that forms a very important part of equity issues under SSA is Children with Special Needs (CWSN). RTE-SSA seeks to ensure that every child with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education. The main components of SSA interventions for children with special needs include identification, functional, formal assessment, appropriate educational placement, preparation of Individualized Educational Plan, provision of aids and appliances, teacher training, resource support, removal of architectural barriers, monitoring and evaluation and a special focus on girls with special needs.

Special training for children with special needs (CWSN) with the main objective of preparing children with special needs for schools, thereby ensuring better quality inclusion for them Home-based education for children with severe profound disabilities with the objective of

either preparing children with special needs for schools and for life, by imparting to them basic life skills. Financially SSA supports up to 3000 rupees per child for integration of disabled children, as per specific proposals. Household surveys and special surveys have been conducted by all states to identify children with special needs. 27.79 lakh children with special needs have been identified. 21.74 lakh children with special needs (78.25% of those identified) are enrolled in schools. Further 72168 lakh children with special needs are being covered through School Readiness Program in 12 states/ UTs and 1.93 lakh children with special needs are being provided home-based education in 33 States/ UTs.

In all 87.81% of the identified children with special needs have been covered through various strategies. 31.28 lakh teachers have been covered through regular teacher training programs, which include a 2-3 day capsule on inclusive education so far. 23.84 lakh (52.74%) teachers have been provided 3-5 days additional training for better orientation to Inclusive Education. States/UTs have appointed 20942 resource persons for providing support on inclusive education to regular teachers². The education of women in India plays a significant role in improving living standards in the country. A higher women literacy rate improves the quality of life both at home and outside home, by encouraging and promoting education of children, especially female children, and in reducing the infant mortality rate. As an independent group, women constitute 48% of the total population of India.

They not only constitute valuable human resource of the country but their development in the socioeconomic arena also sets pace for sustainable growth of the economy. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy. The Constitution officially grants equality to women and also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women. However, the varied forms of discrimination that women in India are subject to are far from positive³. Including of this report in all SSA schools appointing one mother who have disabled children are educating them to give opportunity to work in day care centers by verifying mothers whose financial background is poor/ separated/ widow. The study focused on those mothers who appointed as a worker in SSA day care schools.

Statement of the Problem

There are many barriers of female employment in the course of the country economic development and modernization such as mothers of disabled children faces more problems in their lives compare to mothers who have normal children. Employment is a dream for mothers of disabled children because they are not able to go for work outside, in this situation SSA provides an opportunity for women to work in SSA day care centers who have disabled children.

Objective

- ❖ To analyze the employment benefits to mothers of disabled children at SSA school.

Scope of the Study

The present study relates to employment for mothers who have disabled children to develop their socio- economic status and disabled children needs. SSA provided employment opportunity for mothers of special children to enhance their life. The study conducted in Sarcarsamakulam block Coimbatore district.

Operational Definition for Women Employment

Gordon, Judith R., Whelan – Berry, and Karen S. (2004) studied that women on average skill have more responsibility for home, family life and child care than men, differences exist in women's perceptions of how spouses or partner family finances, support the women's careers, contribute to household management and provide interpersonal support. Specific roles and the resulting support are related to the life satisfaction, job satisfaction and work life balance.

2. Research Method (12pt)

Type of Research

The present is descriptive in nature and based on interview schedule method. The study involves both primary and secondary data.

Primary Data

Primary data were collected by administering interview schedule prepared by the researcher herself.

Secondary data

Secondary data were collected from Journals, Magazines, Books, News Papers, Reports of Central and State Governments, Various Publications of International bodies and Government records and websites.

Pilot Study

A pilot study was undertaken by the researcher to understand the variables involved in the study. Discussions were held with SSA coordinators, field experts, and mothers disabled children. A preliminary study was conducted with the mother of special children who appointed in SSA Day Care centers in other blocks, except Sarcarsamakulam regarding their empowerment of women through employment.

Tools for Data Collection

Interview schedule designed by the researcher was used for collection of primary data based on comprehensive study of the literature related to the theme of the study and discussions with the study experts, private and government disabled schools, day care centers for disable and researchers, variables were identified. Then it was given to the fellow researchers and a panel of experts consisting of controller of SSA school, Special Educators, Professors in various departments and statisticians for review. The comments and suggestions given by them were incorporated duly and the tool was modified.

Pre testing

Based on the variables identified through review of literature and pilot study a preliminary tool has been structured.

The interview schedule thus prepared was pre tested with 30 mothers who are employed in SSA day care centers in Coimbatore blocks in the light of comments made by them the interview schedule was modified again. It was circulated among 10 researchers for their review with regard to word arrangement, format and sequence and time requires for filling up. Incorporating their suggestions, the interview schedule was finalized. The interview schedule was framed both in English as well as in Tamil, the local language in the study are. The tool was common to all the respondents of the study.

Sampling Design

The mothers of disabled children in day care centers of SSA school at Sarcarsamakulam constitute the universe for the study. There is one mother who have special child with poor financial background is employed in SSA day care centers. The study area is Sarcarsamakulam which holds 56 SSA day care schools, in each school one mother of special children is

appointed. The data was collected from respondents whose disabled children's mother working at SSA day care centers.

Sampling Design Table 1.1
SSA Day Care Centers at Sarcarsamakulam block in Coimbatore

Sl.No	Total number of blocks in Coimbatore	Selected Block	Total number of SSA Day Care centre at Sarcarsamakulam	Selected SSA Day care center
1	12	Sarcarsamakulam	56	56

Geographical Area of the Study

The area of the study is restricted to the SSA day care centers in Sarcarsamakulam at Coimbatore district.

Field Work and Data Collection

The data collection was done by the researcher herself. She met each and every mother in person to collect relevant information. The responses from the special children mothers from the SSA day care centers were encouraging and they answered all the questions given in the interviews schedule. The respondents extended whole hearted and complete co-operation as the interview schedule.

Data Processing

The completed interview schedules were edited then and there. Care has been taken to detect errors and omissions to assure that the data were accurate and consistent with facts gathered. After scrutinizing it was found that out of 56 filled in interview schedule all the schedules were complete in all aspects and the 56 responses were taken for final processing and analysis. The raw data was coded and were fed in SPSS version.

Limitations of the Study

- The study is limited to mothers of special children who employed at SSA day care schools. The study did not cover the all SSA schools in Coimbatore city.
- The study covers the socio economic developments, job satisfaction, and empowerment of women through employment among the mothers of special children who employed at SSA school.
- The study is limited to the age group of 25 to 35 as the study is carried out among mothers of special children who employed at SSA day care centers.

3. Results and Analysis

The study reveals result as all respondents are benefited by the SSA, 32 per cent of respondents economically independent, 67 per cent of respondents are satisfied in the job profile given by SSA, 82 percent of respondents are comfortable with their children in SSA day care center and 29 percent of respondents aware about the government schemes and policies for disabled children through the employment. According to result all mothers whose children are disabled having an opportunity to working at SSA Day Care Schools are given training according to their education.

The effort of employment opportunity provided for mothers of disabled children through SSA gives more Self confidence in women to hold her life for their disabled children. It will help the mothers to enhance her disabled children's life who come from very poor economic background. Other disabled children mothers also satisfied of their child care at SSA schools.

4. Conclusion

Women workers in general constitute a marginalized category within the class of workers, rural women workers occupy a lower position compared to their urban counterparts, and the lowest layer among them is constituted by those belonging to the bottom strata of the society. A higher level of education and employable skills

for women workers is for improving their levels of productivity and enabling them to move into nonagricultural vocations. Women empowerment through employment is a very small idea brought out by SSA for their better enhancement for their lives especially for women who have disabled children. Every woman who is working in SSA schools is satisfied in their jobs because she is not refused to move out from her disabled child. There is no any provisions at working place for women who have disabled children but SSA schools provides that flexibility, so all women who working under SSA school is more satisfied with their children in day care school.

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