Knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats about women and child welfare programmes

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ABSTRACT

Gram Panchayat is the primary body of the rural local self-government. The elected women members are supposed to play very important role for the overall development and specially for women and child welfare. Many programmes have been implemented by the state and central governments for women and child welfare. The successful implementation of these programmes largely depends on the elected women members of Gram Panchayats. The present investigations were done to study the knowledge level and extent of information understood about women and child welfare programmes by these women members. The study was conducted during 2019-20 in Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts of Karnataka state. A total of 150 women members of Gram Panchayats were randomly selected from both the districts (75 from each district). In Dharwad district, more number of women members of Gram Panchayats possessed low to medium level of knowledge whereas in Uttara Kannada district most of the respondents had medium to high level of knowledge. The knowledge among Uttara Kannada women members of Gram Panchayats was found to be high (17.48) followed by Dharwad (11.65). There was a significant difference in knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats of Uttara Kannada and Dharwad districts.

Keywords: Knowledge; Gram Panchayat; women; child; programmes

INTRODUCTION

Gram Panchayat is the primary body of the rural local self-government working as an executive committee of the Gram Sabha. The idea of Panchayati Raj is based on community participation and collective decision-making at the local level or in other words self-governance. Village people have idea about their area, resources and problems. A Gram Panchayat can plan for local economic development and address the problems of its area. Gram Panchayats provide facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, roads, street lights etc. These are the basic facilities that people need in everyday life. Hence the role of Gram Panchayats is crucial for overall development of the village through participatory governance.

The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) and other various committees have suggested inclusion of women in Panchyati Raj. Hence in 1992 the 73rd Amendment Act (73rd CAA) for the first time provided one-third reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) and thus ushered a new era of women's participation in the local governance in India.

Women are playing important role in governance of India through Panchyati Raj institutions. Their increased political participation has yielded positive results in development issues such as education, health, nutrition and increase in family income during the last quarter of the century. Women representatives have demonstrated that they have critical information about community resources; they learn quickly about how to lead effective community-centered development. Both, state and central governments have implemented various need-based women and child welfare programmes. The successful implementation of these programmes largely depends upon the knowledge possessed and role played by the elected

women members of Gram Panchayats. The present study was conducted to analyze the socio-economic profile and assess the knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats about selected women and child welfare programmes.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the year 2019-20 in Dharwad and Uttar Kannada districts of north Karnataka coming under the jurisdiction of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka. Based on the highest number of Gram Panchayat members, Dharwad, Kundagol and Hubli Talukas were selected in Dharwad district. From Uttar Kannada district, Honnavar, Sirsi and Kumta Talukas were selected. From each Taluka 25 women members of Gram Panchayats were selected. A total of 75 women members of Gram Panchayats were randomly selected from each district. Thus the total number of women members was 150. Keeping in view the objectives and the variables under study, a schedule was prepared by reviewing the previous research studies and consulting and discussing with the experts.

English and English (1958) defined knowledge as a body of information possessed by an individual which is in accordance with established facts. In the present study knowledge level referred to the extent of information understood about women and child welfare programmes by women members of Gram Panchayats.

Construction of teacher-made knowledge test: Teacher-made knowledge test was developed to measure the knowledge level of women members of Gram Panchayats towards women and child welfare programmes. Knowledge questions on women and child welfare programmes were formulated with the help of subject experts and pre-tested in non-sample area. On the basis of the experience gained in pre-testing, the knowledge questions were finalized. A score of one was given to the right answer and zero to the wrong answer as per Pawar (2009).

Total score for each respondent was calculated and classified into three categories viz low, medium and high using class interval as per below:

$$\text{Class interval} = \frac{\text{Maximum score} - \text{Minimum score}}{3}$$

Knowledge index: Based on the score obtained by all the respondents knowledge index was worked out by using the following formula:

$$\text{Knowledge index} = \frac{\text{Scores obtained}}{\text{Obtainable scores}} \times 100$$

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

The data on socio-economic status of the women members of Gram Panchayats are given in Table 1.

It is evident from the data that about half (50.67%) of the women members of Gram Panchayats from Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts belonged to middle age category. The reasons could be that middle age women are more enthusiastic, participate actively in social work, work hard and have interest in village development. The young women do not participate in political affairs and farm-related activities in villages as they feel it not safe to work with men and politics is usually not preferred for women before marriage in most of the families.

Majority of the respondents from Dharwad district were educated up to primary to high school level whereas in case of Uttara Kannada district majority of the respondents education level ranged between middle school to PUC. The possible reason for low level of education could be that in earlier days less preference was given for girls education and girls were not allowed to go for higher education. Socio-economic status was also low in the villages. As a result young women took care of household activities and the middle age women worked outside to meet the family needs. In Uttara Kannada district gender bias and male dominance were less as compared to Dharwad district. The education profile of women in both districts showed that in Dharwad district the educated women were 73.46 per cent and in Uttar Kannada district 78.39 per cent of women were literates.

More number (58.67 to 61.34%) of the women members belonged to forward castes whereas about 25.00 to 30.00 per cent of them were scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes in Dharwad and Uttar Kannada districts respectively.

Most of the women members of Gram Panchayats in both the districts belonged to nuclear

Table 1. Socio-economic profile of women members of Gram Panchayats (n= 150)

Characteristic	Category	f (%)		
		Dharwad (n$_1$= 75)	Uttara Kannada (n$_2$= 75)	Total (n= 150)
Age (years)	Young (18-35)	11 (14.66)	10 (13.33)	21 (14.00)
	Middle (36-50)	38 (50.67)	38 (50.67)	76 (50.67)
	Old (>50)	26 (34.67)	27 (36.00)	53 (35.33)
Education (class)	Illiterate (0)	02 (02.67)	04 (05.33)	06 (04.00)
	Primary school (1-4)	16 (21.33)	03 (04.00)	19 (12.67)
	Middle school (5-7)	17 (22.67)	12 (16.00)	29 (19.33)
	High school (8-10)	27 (36.00)	28 (37.34)	55 (36.67)
	PUC (11-12)	10 (13.33)	24 (32.00)	34 (22.67)
	Degree (>12)	03 (04.00)	04 (05.33)	07 (04.66)
Caste	Forward	44 (58.67)	46 (61.34)	90 (60.00)
	Backward	08 (10.66)	10 (13.33)	18 (12.00)
	Scheduled caste/scheduled tribe	23 (30.67)	19 (25.33)	42 (28.00)
Family type	Nuclear	54 (72.00)	45 (60.00)	99 (66.00)
	Joint	21 (28.00)	30 (40.00)	51 (34.00)
Marital status	Married	64 (85.33)	61 (81.33)	125 (83.33)
	Unmarried	00 (0.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
	Widow	11 (14.67)	14 (18.67)	25 (16.67)
	Divorcee	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
Main family occupation	Agriculture	51 (68.00)	43 (57.33)	94 (62.67)
	Non-agriculture (business, government/private employees, carpenters, labourers, contractors)	24 (32.00)	32 (42.67)	56 (37.33)
Landholding	Landless	19 (25.33)	27 (36.00)	46 (30.67)
	Marginal landholders (up to 2.5 acres)	22 (29.34)	13 (17.33)	35 (23.33)
	Small landholders (2.5-5.0 acres)	30 (40.00)	32 (42.67)	62 (41.33)
	Medium landholders (5.0-10.00 acres)	03 (04.00)	03 (04.00)	06 (04.00)
	Big landholders (>10 acres)	01 (01.33)	00 (00.00)	01 (00.67)
Annual family income (Rs)	Low (up to 1,32,000)	54 (72.00)	22 (29.33)	76 (50.67)
	Medium (1,32,000 to 5,72,000)	21 (28.00)	50 (66.67)	71 (47.33)
	High (>5,72,000)	00 (00.00)	03 (04.00)	03 (02.00)
Cosmopoliteness	Low (0-3)	40 (53.33)	11 (14.67)	51 (34.00)
	Medium (4-6)	35 (46.67)	61 (81.33)	96 (64.00)
	High (7-10)	00 (00.00)	03 (04.00)	03 (02.00)

families. In earlier days people used to live in joint families. But nowadays people want to lead quality and independent life. They want to have their own assets and give importance to their children education. Other reasons could be migration of families in search of jobs.

Majority (85.33 and 81.33%) of the respondents in Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts respectively were married. Few of the women Panchayat members ie 14.67 per cent in Dharwad and 18.67 per cent in Uttara Kannada district were widows.

More number of respondents in both the districts had agriculture as their main occupation of the family. It could be because all the respondents were from rural areas and obviously they had agriculture as

their main occupation. However there were families also who had been doing caste-based occupations. Some were doing non-agriculture occupations (business, government/private jobs, carpenters, labourers, contractors etc). It was observed that 40.00 to 42.67 per cent of the women members of Gram Panchayats in the two districts belonged to small landholdings and negligible amount of the respondents had medium and big landholdings. The probable reason might be that most of the respondents were from nuclear families. Due to fragmentation of landholdings they possessed small landholdings.

Most (72.00%) of the women members of Gram Panchayats in Dharwad district had low family income and 28.00 per cent had medium income. This may be due to the fact that most of the respondents in

the district belonged to agricultural families and they grew non-commercial crops due to lack of irrigation and less rainfall which fetched less price for their produce in the market. In case of Uttara Kannada district 66.67 and 29.33 per cent of the women members had medium and low family income respectively. This could be due to the reason that more number of the respondents had agriculture as their main family occupation and they grew cash crops like areca nut, cardamom, pepper, coconut, paddy etc which fetched good price in the market. Uttara Kannada area also had been experiencing more rainfall hence yields were assured. The area is also hilly hence many water bodies like rivers, streams, wells etc give assured irrigation and good crop yield.

More than half (53.33%) and 46.67 per cent of the respondents in Dharwad district had low and medium cosmopoliteness respectively. In Dharwad district men had been doing all the activities related to marketing, purchasing etc. On the other hand women did not visit the nearby towns frequently as their income level was low and all financial control lied with men members of the families. In Uttara Kannada district majority (81.33 %) of the respondents belonged to medium cosmopoliteness which could be because of their better socio-economic conditions. They frequently visited nearby towns for various reasons. Most of the families also had four-wheelers which might have increased their cosmopoliteness nature as compared to Dharwad district women.

Knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats about various women and child development schemes

Data on the knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats of the two districts about various women and child development schemes are given in Table 2.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme: It is evident from the data that 45.33 per cent of the women members of Gram Panchayats of both the districts knew about the BBBP scheme and it was implemented by the central government followed by 36.00 per cent about beneficiaries and 33.33 per cent about the objectives of the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 28.53.

In Dharwad district 34.67 per cent of the women members knew that BBBP scheme was implemented by the central government, 26.67 per cent

about beneficiaries, 16.00 per cent about the objectives and 12.00 per cent about benefits of the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 18.67. In case of Uttara Kannada district 56.00 and 50.67 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about implementing government and objectives of the scheme respectively. Less than half of the respondents (45.33%) knew about beneficiaries of the scheme. The knowledge index was 38.40.

Bhagyalakshmi scheme: Great majority (95.33%) of the women members of Gram Panchayats in both the districts knew about the beneficiaries of the scheme followed by implementing government (88.00%), criteria for selection of beneficiaries (87.33%) and the objectives of the scheme (86.00%). The knowledge index was found to be 74.29. In case of Dharwad district majority (90.67%) of the women members had knowledge about beneficiaries of the scheme followed by objectives of the scheme (82.67%). Equal number (80.00%) of the respondents knew about implementing government and criteria for selection of beneficiaries. The knowledge index was 68.26. In case of Uttar Kannada district all the respondents (100.00%) had knowledge about beneficiaries of the scheme followed by implementing government (96.00%) and criteria for selection of beneficiaries (94.67%). The knowledge index was found to be 80.33.

Udyogini scheme: Less than half (47.33%) of the women members in both the districts knew about objectives of the Udyogini scheme and 36.67 per cent had knowledge about its beneficiaries followed by implementing government (28.67%) and services available (26.00%). The knowledge index was found to be 18.99. An equal number (32.00%) of the women members in Dharwad district had knowledge about the objectives and beneficiaries of the scheme. Less than one-fourth (22.67%) members knew about services available under the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 13.16. In case of Uttar Kannada district 62.67 per cent of the respondents knew about objectives while 49.33 and 41.33 per cent had knowledge about implementing government and beneficiaries of the scheme respectively. The knowledge index was found to be 24.83.

Integrated child development services: Majority (84.67%) of the respondents of both the districts knew about the beneficiaries of the scheme while 59.33 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about the objectives followed by education services (54.00%) and

Table 2. Knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats about selected women and child welfare programmes (n= 150)

Statement	f (%)					
	Dharwad (n₁= 75)		Uttara Kannada (n₂= 75)		Total (n= 150)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme						
Year of start	03 (04.00)	72 (96.00)	04 (05.33)	71 (94.67)	07 (04.67)	143 (95.33)
Objectives of the scheme	12 (16.00)	63 (84.00)	38 (50.67)	37 (49.33)	50 (33.33)	100 (66.67)
Implemented by the state or central government	26 (34.67)	49 (65.33)	42 (56.00)	33 (44.00)	68 (45.33)	82 (54.67)
Beneficiaries of the scheme	20 (26.67)	55 (73.33)	34 (45.33)	41 (54.67)	54 (36.00)	96 (64.00)
Benefits of the scheme	09 (12.00)	66 (88.00)	26 (34.67)	49 (65.33)	35 (23.33)	115 (76.67)
Knowledge index	18.67		38.40		28.53	
Bhagyalakshmi scheme						
Year of start	06 (08.00)	69 (92.00)	17 (22.67)	58 (77.33)	23 (15.33)	127 (84.67)
Objectives of the scheme	62 (82.67)	13 (17.33)	67 (89.33)	08 (10.67)	129 (86.00)	21 (14.00)
Implemented by state or central government	60 (80.00)	15 (20.00)	72 (96.00)	03 (04.00)	132 (88.00)	18 (12.00)
Beneficiaries of the scheme	68 (90.67)	07 (09.33)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	143 (95.33)	07 (04.67)
Criteria for selection of beneficiaries	60 (80.00)	15 (20.00)	71 (94.67)	04 (05.33)	131 (87.33)	19 (12.67)
Knowledge index	68.26		80.33		74.29	
Udyogini scheme						
Year of start	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	150 (100.00)
Objectives of the scheme	24 (32.00)	51 (68.00)	47 (62.67)	28 (37.33)	71 (47.33)	79 (52.67)
Implemented by state or central government	06 (08.00)	69 (92.00)	37 (49.33)	38 (50.67)	43 (28.67)	107 (71.33)
Beneficiaries of the scheme	24 (32.00)	51 (68.00)	31 (41.33)	44 (58.67)	55 (36.67)	95 (63.33)
Services available under the scheme	17 (22.67)	58 (77.33)	22 (29.33)	53 (70.67)	39 (26.00)	111 (74.00)
Amount given under the scheme	08 (10.67)	67 (89.33)	12 (16.00)	63 (84.00)	20 (13.33)	130 (86.67)
Amount subsidized under the scheme for general category	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	150 (100.00)
Amount subsidized under the scheme for SC/ST categories	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	150 (100.00)
Knowledge index	13.16		24.83		18.99	
Integrated child development service						
Year of start	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	150 (100.00)
Objectives of the scheme	43 (57.33)	32 (42.67)	46 (61.33)	29 (38.67)	89 (59.33)	61 (40.67)
Implemented by state or central government	11 (14.67)	64 (85.33)	53 (70.67)	22 (29.33)	64 (42.67)	86 (57.33)
Beneficiaries of the scheme	56 (74.67)	19 (25.33)	71 (94.67)	04 (05.33)	127 (84.67)	23 (15.33)
Education services available under the scheme	35 (46.67)	40 (53.33)	46 (61.33)	29 (38.67)	81 (54.00)	69 (46.00)
Health services available under the scheme	30 (40.00)	45 (60.00)	45 (60.00)	30 (40.00)	75 (50.00)	75 (50.00)
Beneficiaries of immunization service under the scheme	20 (26.67)	55 (73.33)	39 (52.00)	36 (48.00)	59 (39.33)	91 (60.67)
Knowledge index	37.14		60.95		49.04	
Pradhana Mantri Matri Vandna Yojana						
Year of start	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	04 (05.33)	71 (94.67)	04 (02.67)	71 (47.33)
Objectives of the scheme	27 (36.00)	48 (64.00)	54 (72.00)	21 (28.00)	81 (54.00)	69 (46.00)

Implemented by state or central government	18 (24.00)	57 (76.00)	10 (13.33)	65 (86.67)	83 (55.33)	67 (44.67)
Beneficiaries of the scheme	27 (36.00)	48 (64.00)	21 (28.00)	54 (72.00)	81 (54.00)	69 (46.00)
Criteria for selecting the beneficiaries under the scheme	14 (18.67)	61 (81.33)	35 (46.67)	40 (53.33)	54 (36.00)	96 (64.00)
Amount given under the scheme	18 (24.00)	57 (76.00)	44 (58.67)	31 (41.33)	49 (32.67)	101 (67.33)
Knowledge index	23.11		55.11			39.11
Ksheera Bhagya Yojana						
Year of start	00 (00.00)	75 (100.00)	75 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	150 (100.00)
Objectives of the scheme	28 (37.33)	47 (62.67)	08 (10.67)	67 (89.33)	95 (63.33)	55 (36.67)
Implemented by state or central government	35 (46.67)	40 (53.33)	16 (21.33)	59 (78.67)	94 (62.67)	56 (37.33)
Beneficiaries of the scheme	29 (38.67)	46 (61.33)	20 (26.67)	55 (73.33)	84 (56.00)	66 (44.00)
Services available under the scheme	36 (48.00)	39 (52.00)	15 (20.00)	60 (80.00)	96 (64.00)	54 (36.00)
Quantity of milk provided per child under the scheme	19 (25.33)	56 (74.67)	38 (50.67)	37 (49.33)	56 (37.33)	94 (62.67)
Number of days milk provided to children in a week	11 (14.67)	64 (85.33)	61 (81.33)	14 (18.67)	25 (16.67)	125 (83.33)
Knowledge index	30.09		55.61			42.85
Overall knowledge index	30.67		46.00			38.33

health services (50.00%) available under the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 49.04. Most (74.67%) of the respondents of Dharwad district had knowledge about beneficiaries of the scheme while 57.33 and 46.67 per cent knew about the objectives and education services available respectively under the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 37.14. In Uttar Kannada 94.67 and 70.67 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about beneficiaries of the scheme and implementing government respectively. An equal number (61.33%) of them also knew about the objectives and education services available under the scheme. The knowledge index in this case was found to be 60.95.

Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandna Yojana: More than half (55.33%) of the women members of both the districts had knowledge about implementing government. An equal number (54.00%) of the respondents knew about objectives and beneficiaries of the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 39.11. An equal number (36.00%) of the women members of Dharwad district had knowledge about the objectives and beneficiaries of the scheme while 24.00 per cent each knew about implementing government and amount given under the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 23.11. Majority (86.67%) of the respondents of Uttara Kannada district had knowledge about implementing government. An equal number (72.00%) of the respondents knew about objectives and beneficiaries of the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 55.11.

Ksheera Bhagya Yojana: Majority (64.00%) of the women members of both the districts knew about the services available followed by the objectives (63.33%) and implementing government (62.67%) of the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 42.85. Less than fifty per cent (48.00%) of the respondents of Dharwad had knowledge about services available followed by implementing government (46.67%) of the sheme. The knowledge index was found to be 30.09. In Uttara Kannada majority (89.33%) of the respondents knew about the objectives followed by services available (80.00%) and implementing government (78.67%) under the scheme. The knowledge index was found to be 55.61.

Overall knowledge index was 30.67 and 46.00 in Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts respectively. Overall knowledge index of Gram Panchayat women members from both the districts was 38.33.

Knowledge level of women members of Gram Panchayats about various women and child development programmes

The data pertaining to knowledge level of the women members of Gram Panchayats are given in Table 3.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme: In Dharwad district 72.00 and 18.67 per cent of the respondents had low and medium knowledge about Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme. In case of Uttara Kannada district 50.67 and 34.67 per cent of the women members had low and high knowledge respectively about this scheme. The results are in line with the findings of Muthayya et al (1983).

Bhagyalakshmi scheme: Majority (68.00%) of the women members of Dharwad district and 88.00 per cent of Uttara Kannada district belonged to high knowledge category. The possible reason could be the popularity of the scheme as it was state government-implemented scheme and there were more facilities available under it. Bhagyalakshmi is a conditionality-linked cash transfer scheme to protect the birth of a girl child which gained more popularity among the rural families irrespective of education. The immediate transfer of money to the girl child and other facilities might have attracted the respondents to know more about the scheme. The results are in line with the findings of Salutagimath and Nithyashree (2014).

Udyogini scheme: Majority (77.33 and 65.33%) of the respondents of Dharwad and Uttara Kannada districts respectively had low knowledge about this scheme. This could be because the scheme is implemented by the central government. Lack of popularity of the scheme and lack of interest (as it is loan scheme) to help women entrepreneurs might have resulted in less knowledge level of respondents about the scheme. The results are in line with the findings of Muthayya et al (1983).

Integrated child development service (ICDS): Less than 49.33 and 44.00 per cent of the women members of Dharwad district belonged to low and medium knowledge categories respectively regarding ICDS. In case of Uttara Kannada district 73.33 per cent of the respondents had medium knowledge about the scheme. Integrated child development scheme was known to most of the people in the villages. But the knowledge held by the elected women Gram Panchayat members regarding its year of start, the details of services available such as education, health, immunization of children etc were not known to the respondents.

Pradhana Mantri Matri Vandna Yojana (PMMVY): In Dharwad district 64.00 per cent of the respondents had low knowledge about Pradhana Mantri Matri Vandna Yojana. The respondents didn't know about the implementing government, objectives and other details of the scheme. However many were aware about the benefits given under the scheme. The reasons could be lack of education, low cosmpoliteness, low mass media participation, lack of popularity and lack of interest to know about the scheme. In Uttara Kannada equal number (34.67%) of the respondents belonged to high and medium knowledge. The reason could be that most of the respondents were more educated and their medium cosmopoliteness.

Ksheera Bhagya Yojana: More than fifty per cent (52.00%) of the women members of Dharwad district belonged to low knowledge category. The scheme is a popular flagship programme of Government of Karnataka for children wherein they get a glass of warm milk which they can not always manage to get at their homes. The knowledge held by the elected women members was medium as they didn't know about the year of start, objectives and number of days of providing milk to the school children under the scheme. However most of them were aware about the benefits and implementing government of the scheme. The results are in line with the findings of Muthayya et al (1983).

Differences in the knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats about selected women and child welfare programmes

Table 4 shows that there was a significant difference in knowledge between the respondents of Uttara Kannada and Dharwad. The mean knowledge scores of Dharwad district respondents were low as compared to Uttara Kannada which might be due to the reason that most of the women representatives of Dharwad were less educated in comparison to Uttara Kannada district and the former were dependant on their husbands and male officials especially in taking decisions with regard to village development programmes. Also the exposure to different organizations and mass media and support from the family members might have resulted in the difference in the knowledge of respondents of two districts.

Table 3. Categorization of women members of Gram Panchayats based on their level of knowledge about selected women and child welfare programmes (n= 150)

Scheme/category	f (%)		
	Dhrawad (n_1= 75)	Uttara Kannada (n_2= 75)	Total (n= 150)
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme			
Low (0-1)	54 (72.00)	38 (50.67)	92 (61.33)
Medium (2-3)	14 (18.67)	11 (14.66)	25 (16.67)
High (4-5)	07 (09.33)	26 (34.67)	33 (22.00)
Bhagyalakshmi scheme			
Low (0-1)	07 (09.33)	00 (00.00)	07 (04.67)
Medium (2-3)	17 (22.67)	09 (12.00)	26 (17.33)
High (4-5)	51 (68.00)	66 (88.00)	117 (78.00)
Udyogini scheme			
Low (0-2)	58 (77.33)	49 (65.33)	107 (71.33)
Medium (3-5)	17 (22.67)	26 (34.67)	43 (28.67)
High (6-8)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
Integrated child development service			
Low (0-2)	37 (49.33)	06 (08.00)	43 (28.67)
Medium (3-5)	33 (44.00)	55 (73.33)	88 (58.67)
High (6-7)	05 (06.67)	14 (18.67)	19 (12.66)
Pradhana Mantri Matri Vandha Yojana			
Low (0-2)	48 (64.00)	23 (30.66)	71 (47.33)
Medium (3-4)	17 (22.67)	26 (34.67)	43 (28.67)
High (5-6)	10 (13.33)	26 (34.67)	36 (24.00)
Ksheera Bhagya Yojana			
Low (0-2)	39 (52.00)	20 (26.67)	59 (39.33)
Medium (3-5)	32 (42.67)	43 (57.33)	75 (50.00)
High (6-7)	04 (05.33)	12 (16.00)	16 (10.67)

Table 4. District-wise differences in the knowledge of women members of Gram Panchayats about selected women and child welfare programmes (n= 150)

District	Mean	SD	t-value
Dharwad	11.65	7.72	
			5.973*
Uttara Kannada	17.48	3.69	

*Significant at 5%

CONCLUSION

In Dharwad district more number of the women members of Gram Panchayats belonged to low to medium level of knowledge whereas in Uttara Kannada district most of the respondents were from medium to high level of knowledge. There was need for Gram Panchayat women members to have more knowledge about women and child welfare programmes.

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