

# ROLE OF HOME SCIENCE EXTENSION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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## ABSTRACT

*Home Science extension education has played an important role in strengthening the inner ability of our women by enhancing their level of education and by imparting financial independence. Life cannot be sustained without adequate nourishment, good health, protective environment, good housing, managerial qualities/skills, empowerments, suitable resources, communication skills, high literacy levels and aspirations. All these are essential for national development. Home science is an integral course which builds an individual with all these qualities and thereby aims at development of individuals, his family, the community and the nation in large. Home science also encourages children to participate in community extension activities and thereby make them realize their commitment to their society and less privileged and school dropouts in rural and urban areas. To strengthen the work of the government and non governmental agencies in providing all round development of individuals through imparting knowledge on health, nutrition, home management, child development, their rights and responsibilities, modern technologies and other relevant information, which will lead to nutrition and social standards*

## INTRODUCTION

Home Science deals with all aspects of the life of the community and the nation. It integrates the application of knowledge synthesised from different sciences and humanities to improve the human environment, family nutrition, management of resources, child development, and community resource management and consumer competence. Literally, the word Home Science can be interpreted as Systematic Education for home living. The art of home making had a significant place in the sixty four arts an individual had to master for successful living. Today Home Science is described as a multipurpose programme of study which takes care of individual's need and interests and develops need abilities and capacities for successful homemaking in a dynamic society. Home Science extension aims at dissemination of scientific knowledge and technology among the rural masses in order to improve their quality of life. The social, technological and economic development of the country has its ultimate objective in improving the quality of life of its population. Hence, the overall goals of all national government programmes are to make adequate provision for fulfilling the basic needs of the

people like good food, clothing, adequate housing, good health care facilities education, recreation and job opportunities.

Extension education has played an important role in strengthening the inner ability of our women by enhancing their level of education and by imparting financial independence! Extension focuses on dissemination of the information relating to advanced technology in agricultural production, which includes usage of improved seeds, methods of use of chemical fertilizers, application of advanced scientific knowledge to the farming and home of the rural people; Scientific management of land based farming such as horticulture, sericulture, dairying, poultry etc, by the farming community.

Extension education helps in bringing about cultural development. The main function of extension education is to disseminate information to people who need this.

Formal education is highly institutionalized, chronologically graded and hierarchically structured education system starting from primary school and reaching to university education. General or basic education is imparted in formal education methods in a formal atmosphere.

Non - formal education on the other hand is any organized, systematic, educational activity carried outside the framework of the formal system, to provide selected types of learning to particular subgroups in the population who cannot avail the benefits of the formal education. This will include school dropouts; young and old. For these informal methods of teaching and informal environment is used.

This non-formal system of education is referred to as adult education or extension education. It tries to bring out the changes in knowledge, skills, attitude and practice. It provides knowledge and help to enable the people work more effectively and efficiently It helps people know the world and provide better opportunities for interaction. It also provides new opportunities for people to develop skills and talents and improve their standard of living also it makes people self-reliant and productive citizens of the society. Non formal system of education promotes better social, cultural, recreational, intellectual and spiritual aspects of the people.

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technology among the rural masses, in order to improve their quality of life. The social, technological and economic development of the country has its ultimate objective in improving the quality of life of its population. Hence, the overall goals of all national development programmes are to make adequate provision for fulfilling the basic needs of the people- like good food, clothing, adequate housing, good health care facilities, education, recreation and job opportunities. In the age of globalization, a multitude of pressures and problems such as physical, social, emotional and psychological nature confront the individuals, families and communities.

Extension focuses on dissemination of the information relating to advanced technology in agricultural production, which includes usage of improved seeds, methods of use of chemical fertilizers, . application of advanced scientific knowledge to the farming and home of the rural people; Scientific management of land based farming such as horticulture, sericulture, dairying, poultry etc, by the farming community; Overall improvement of the quality of life of the rural people within the framework of the national economic and social policies as a whole. The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, promotion of gender equity and the empowerment of women, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and ensuring environmental sustainability, are among the declared United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, which are closely related to the extension function.

## **OBJECTIVES**

To strengthen the work of the government and non governmental agencies in providing all round development of individuals through imparting knowledge on health, nutrition home management, child development, their rights and responsibilities, modern technologies and other relevant information, which will lead to nutrition and social standards To promote all round development of all individuals in the home. To assist individuals in the effective use of the available resources in solving their day-to-day problem Developing functional and vocational skills like tailoring, food preservation, educational skills etc, which will help them in improving their economic status and empowerment of women especially Bringing about change in their attitude and practices aiming at increasing the literary levels, standard of living and ultimately community and national development.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF HOME SCIENCE EXTENSION**

Multidisciplinary approach - It derives its body of knowledge from all sciences like physics, chemistry, physiology, nutrition and healthchild development, textiles and clothing and also includes management, sociology, psychology, communication etc., Action oriented - Home science extension refers to a series of activities, which impart knowledge on selected topics and help the target group to develop necessary skills for its application. Home Science extension education aims at action and results. Empower women and youth - In order to improve the economic status this is essential These technical advances are shared and they are made to work independently with better status in the community. Need-based program - Any home science extension program will exist or function only

on needs of the people. It can be long-term or a short term need but without this no program for development can be planned. Family oriented - The very word home means the family and so home science extension aims at the overall development of every individual in the family young or old, men or women Its results are intangible - Change in attitude and knowledge is a slow process and results cannot be seen immediately. Sometimes it is difficult to perceive concrete results and should not be taken as a measurement for the effectiveness of a program It is a two way process - Home Science extension establishes a two-way communication channel by bridging the gap between centres of higher education and arch and the beneficiaries. Now technology is transferred to the field through various communication media or methods and target groups are helped to realize importance of using it for improving their standard of living. Similarly the needs and problem of the people are communicated to specialists who in turn find solution to these and that is passed on through field workers. It is voluntary - There is no compulsion on the people to participate in home science extension programs. They are made to realize the need for developmental progress but accepting and participating in developmental programs is totally left to the people.

In this context of growing pressures in the work environment and the external world of competitions, the family assumes a vital role in shaping the citizens of tomorrow. Here comes the major role of Home Science extension education, as it equips the future citizens with relevant knowledge and competence, and prepares them to become efficient custodians of the nation's futures.

Through its various spheres of involvements, it aims at developing the nation through eradication of poverty and illiteracy, infusing creativity in all aspects of life, social reform and enlighten, increasing food production, its better distribution and preservation, reduction in unemployment by promoting self employment, rural development, urban development, population education, income generation, resource mobilization and utilization.

## **GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

A major percentage of Indian population lives in rural areas. Government and Nongovernmental agencies play major role in planning and implementing programs for the development of the deprived section of our population, which constitutes mainly of women and children. Some of these programs are as:

World Bank Assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

- Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- Women's Voluntary Service (WVS)
- Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)
- Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY)
- Balika Samridhhi Yojana:

- Adult Education

Apart from providing nutrition education to the community, extension education helps the community to know the trends in income, employment, poverty, unemployment, labour force participation, and other social and economic statistics which are very crucial for the development of the nation. Extension education has played an important role in strengthening the inner ability of our women by enhancing their level of education and by imparting financial independence.

Home Science education has played an important role in strengthening the inner ability of our women by enhancing their level of education and by imparting financial independence. Home Science extension education has played an important role in strengthening the inner ability of our women by enhancing their level of education and by imparting financial independence. The establishment of adult education, continuing education and community resource centres all over the world, is a reflection of the need, necessity and relevance of extension education. Being one of the major role of University, extension education acts as change agents in conveying messages, ideas, knowledge, technology, information and skills to a captive target audience, and also brings back the viewpoints and feed back of the people back to the sources for further improvement.

Home scientists with their knowledge and concern and human life and happiness can work effectively since many of the national development programs are for women and children. Home scientists can successfully help the nation to achieve their targets. The role of Home Science as an educational discipline in developing the future citizen and inculcating in them citizenship qualities for their future role is significant.

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