



## A Study of Co-operative Education Practices of District Co-operative Union in Gujarat

\* Dr. Prashant M. Joshi

\* Assit. Prof. (Dept. of Commerce), M. B. Patel Rashtrabhasha Arts and Commerce College, Ahmedabad

### ABSTRACT

*At present there are 20 District co-operative unions functioning under the guidance of the Gujarat State co-operative union. The District Co-operative unions effectively carry out the responsibility of the co-operative education, training, propagation and publication. Co-operative education is concerned with the imparting knowledge about co-operation among people and developing in them co-operative spiritual activities for working to gather. District co-operative unions organize five types of co-operative education classes.*

*In the present paper, an attempt has been done to focus profile of respondents participative in co-operative education classes, participators' opinion regarding benefits of education classes and participators' suggestion to make the education classes more and more practical rather than theoretical. The research paper has been divided into four parts namely*

*District Co-operative Unions of Gujarat State, Research Methodology, Participators' Perception about Co-operative Education Classes, Conclusion*

### Keywords : Education, Co-operative Union, Gujarat

#### District Co-operative Unions of Gujarat State

There are State Co - operative Unions as representatives of Government co-operatives associations in India, in most of the States. They conduct activities related with education and training at the states level. Such a union works for propagation of Co-operatives activities also. There are about 27 state co-operatives in India at present.

The state co-operative union implements co-operative education and training programs and many other activities related with co-operation. Over and above, it manages for the development and propagation of the co-operative activities in the state. So the state co-operative union is considered to be an important organization at the state level. So far as Gujarat State is concerned, the Gujarat State Co-operative Union is a state level co-operative institution conducting the activities of co-operative education, training, publicity and public relation in the state. It was formed as a federal organization on the 19th April, 1960 along with the formation of the Gujarat State. Gujarat State Co-operative Union has been established by Government of Gujarat, as per section 10 of the Bombay Co-operative societies Act, 1925 came into existence in 19th April, 1960.

The activities of the Gujarat State Co-operative union can be classified broadly into four categories as follows:

1. Co-operative Education
2. Co-Operative Training
3. Publicity, Propaganda and Publication
4. Research and Consultancy

District co-operative unions are functioning under the guidance of the Gujarat State co-operative union. The District co-operative unions effectively carry out the

responsibility of the co-operative education, training, propagation, publication and supply of information as per the guide line of the Gujarat State co-operative union in Gujarat State. The co-operative activities have developed in different regions of Gujarat according to the geography and agricultural diversity. The Gujarat co-operative union contributes to the development of district co-operative unions according to the type and the level of the union. Thus a district co-operative union is an important and useful intermediate organization for the development and progress of the co-operative activities at district level. In Gujarat State, at present there are 20 district co-operative unions. The field of work of the district co-operative union is limited to the area of the district i.e up to the revenue limit of the district.

District co-operative unions of Gujarat State organize following types of co-operative education classes.

1. Youth Co-operative education classes.
2. Co-operative seminars, conference, meetings and workshops.
3. Female co-operative education classes.
4. Female -youth co-operative education classes.
5. Female co-operative seminars, meetings, conference and workshops.

#### Research Methodology

Title of the problem: "A Study of Co-operative Education Practices of District Co-operative Unions in Gujarat"

Rational of the Study

Spirited and faithful members, sincere and diligent workers and trained staff are weeded to operate and develop the co-operative activities indispensably. Therefore co-operative Training, Education, Propagation are very important just to achieve that objective.

Gujarat state co-operative union regulates co-operative education, training and propagation in Gujarat state and District Co-operative Unions operate co-operative training, education and propagation in all districts under the guideline of Gujarat state co-operative Union. Lacs of rupees have been spent for the same every year. District Co-operative unions can perform a very significant role today in the age of Globalization. Gujarat state co-operative union is considered an important instrument for the development of co-operative sectors and effective performance of District Co-operative Unions are vital for the state. It is therefore necessary to initiate measures to make District Co-operative Unions operationally productive. Co-operative training and education practices could play useful role towards this end.

Therefore, the present research study titled "A Study of Co-operative Education Practices of District Co-operative Union in Gujarat" has been done to study and review the co-operative education practices of District Co-operative Unions by collecting, analyzing and interpreting data from primary and secondary sources.

#### Objectives of the Study

The present research study is undertaken with the following objectives in view.

1. To study the functioning of Gujarat State Co-operative Union and District co-operative unions that function under National Co-operative Union of India.
2. To Study education programs of District Co-operative Unions with special reference to
  - 2.1 Youth Co-operative education classes.
  - 2.2 Co-operative seminars, conference, meetings and workshops.
  - 2.3 Female co-operative education classes.
  - 2.4 Female -youth co-operative education classes.
  - 2.5 Female co-operative seminars, meetings, conference and workshops.
3. To collect and reviews participators feedback on education programs of District co-operative Unions of Gujarat.
4. To put forward suggestions with a view to make co-operative education practices more effective with special reference to District Co-operative Unions of Gujarat.

#### Hypothesis of the Study

(1) Ho → There is no significant different between respondents' opinion regarding various benefits availed from the co-operative education classes and their participation in the education classes of district co-operative unions.

(2) Ho → There is no significant different between respondents' suggestions for making co-operative education classes more and more successful and their participation in the education classes of district co-operative unions.

#### Universe and Sampling Plan

##### 2.4.1 Universe :

In the study, 20 district co-operative unions of Gujarat State comprise the universe of the study.

##### 2.4.2 Sampling Plan :

Main functioning of district co-operative unions covers co-operative training and education in various districts of Gujarat state. But in the present research paper, only co-operative education practices of district co-operative union has been studied. For the study of co-operative education practices of district co-operative unions of Gujarat State, two stage sampling has been used -

1. Non-probability sampling method
2. Convenient sampling method

Those who have participated in co-operative education classes of all the district co-operative unions have been included in the sampling plan. Sample size is restricted to 500 sample units. 500 respondents have been equally distributed in 20 district co-operative unions of Gujarat on the basis of type of co-operative education program.

#### Sources of Data Collection

##### Primary Data :-

The primary data has been collected from the participators selected as respondents, participating in various co-operative education classes of various district co-operative unions of Gujarat by utilizing multiple-choice questionnaire.

##### Secondary Data :

The necessary secondary data and information for the present research study has been obtained from relevant books, magazines, news papers, official papers, annual reports and various websites related to the co operative sectors.

#### Techniques of Data Collection :-

The techniques used for data collection are multiple choice questionnaires and personal interview. The researcher visited 20 district co-operative unions to fill up the questionnaires. Where personal contact was not possible, the researcher has sent the questionnaires by post. To supplementary the secondary data and to fill up the gap, the researcher conducted interview of different officers of Gujarat State co-operative union and district co-operative unions.

##### Analysis and interpretation of data :-

The information collected through questionnaire has been classified and tabulated. Different tables have been prepared with the help of computer. The data in the table has been analyzed and interpreted by using statistical methods. Various hypotheses have been tested by applying X2 test with the help of SPSS. Hypotheses have been tested at 0.01 level and 0.05 level of significant.

##### Period of Data Collections

The present research study covers the data for the period of five years from 2005-06 to 2009-10. This period is selected because the complete and time series data for this period is available.

#### Participators' perception about co-operative education classes

As per sampling plan, 500 respondents from the co-operative education classes have been selected in order to know their opinions about benefits of co-operative education classes availed by them.

The researcher has made an effort to provide profile of respondents, participative in co-operative education classes regarding their status, experience, education qualification, gender, age group and monthly income in following major findings with reference to education classes.

- Application of t test for number of education classes and number of participators show that there is no significant different between number of education classes and number of participators during year 2005-06 to 2009-10 of all district co-operative unions. So Ho is accepted and H1 is rejected.
- In all education classes out of 500 respondents, all respondents belong to students and workers in ratio of 2 : 3 respectively, 78.4 % respondents are under graduate and 21.6 % respondents are graduate and post graduate, 86 % respondents have less than 11 years experience and 14 % respondents have more than 11 years experience, 60 % respondents are female and 40 % respondents are male, 60.6 % respondents belong to age groups of less than 26 years and 39.4 % respondents belong to age group of more than 26 years and 91.4 % respondents belong to less than

- Rs. 5000 monthly income and 8.6 % respondents belong to more than Rs. 5000 monthly income.
- Out of 05 education classes, there are less than 40 participators in 1 education class and there are more than 40 participators in 4 education classes, 60% education classes have 1 to 3 days duration and 40 % education classes have 1 week duration and in all the education classes only lecture method is used as well only Gujarati medium of language is used.

An attempt has been made by the researcher to collect respondents' opinion regarding benefits of education classes to be availed by them, in terms of selected variables. Details of which have been mentioned in the following findings. Total 525 questionnaires were filled up from different respondents. But 25 questionnaires were rejected and 500 questionnaires were accepted. The questionnaires, in which respondent have given opinion - natural i.e. neither yes nor no, or neither agree nor disagree has been rejected, in order to obtain concentrate opinion. Hypothesis about respondents' opinion regarding education classes have been tested by applying chi - square test and 0.01 and 0.05 d.f. Details of which have been mentioned in the following findings.

- Majority of the respondents - more than about 80 per cent - have elementary knowledge subject being taught in the education classes and favourable response in terms of the selected variable of the co-operative education classes viz. the place of the education classes, time duration of the education classes, preparation before participation in the education classes, various benefits of the education classes, fulfillment of their objectives by the education classes, completion of course in the education classes, duration of the education classes is sufficient, their fully satisfaction with the education classes teacher's overall behaviour is good in the education classes encouraging atmosphere of the education classes, providing enough facilities and materials in the education classes, solving the questions occurring during the education classes by the teacher, satisfaction with the scholarships and momentos supplied in the education classes and inspiring to do the follow up work after the completion of the education classes. 63.20 % respondents join the education classes because of self decision, 13.20% respondents join the education classes because of the order of higher officer, 12.20 % respondents join the education classes because of co-worker's suggestion, 8.40 % respondents join the education classes because of rules and regulation and circular and only 3 % respondents join the education classes because of any other.
- Application of X2 test at either 0.01 level d.f. or 0.05 level d.f. regarding respondents' opinions about the co-operative education classes shows that there is significant difference between respondents' opinions regarding above selected variable of the co-operative education classes and their participation in the co-operative education classes of various district co-operative union. So Ho is rejected and H1 is accepted.
- Majority of the respondents - more than 86 per cent - have suggested giving more emphasis to the deficiency founded and difficulties faced during the work, arranging education classes at their place of work, placing them at the place where they can practice the newly acquired knowledge and skills, the education programmes should be more consisted with

aims and needs of their present organisation, more guidance should be given to them regarding how to work better in the co-operative field, the environment of education classes should be well equipped with proper facilities and a website should be displayed regarding the syllabus and study materials of the education classes in order to make co-operative education classes more successful.

- Application of X2 test at either 0.01 level d.f. or 0.05 level d.f. regarding respondents' suggestions for making the co-operative education classes more and more successful shows that there is significant deference between respondents' suggestions regarding above selected variable of the co-operative education classes and their participation in the co-operative education classes of various district co-operative unions. So Ho is rejected and H1 is accepted.
- Majority of the respondents are satisfied with the present status of the education classes and have suggested to make the education classes more and more practical rather than theoretical.

### Conclusion

Majority of district co-operative unions organize education classes likes youth co-operative education classes, co-operative seminars / meetings / conferences, workshops, female co-operative education classes and female co-operative seminars / meeting / conferences / workshops during the study period during 2005-06 to 2009-10. Number of education classes and number of participators are either increasing or decreasing every year which shows normal performance of district co-operative unions with special performance to organizing education classes. More than 40 numbers of participants have taken part in education classes. Mostly duration of all education classes is more than 1 week. In every, education class, lecture method of education is applied and medium of language is Gujarati only.

Respondents of various statuses, experience, education, gender, age groups and income have been selected in order to obtain their opinions and suggestions.

Majority of the respondents more than 80 per cent have elementary knowledge of the subjects being taught in the education classes and favourable response in terms of selected variables.

Regarding the responsible person making the respondents to join the education classes, about 63 per cent respondents have taken self decision and 3 to 13 per cent respondents have taken decision to join the education classes due to order of higher officer, suggestions of co-workers or rules and regulations.

Majority of respondents, more than 84 per cent have been given suggestions giving more emphasis to the deficiencies found and difficulties faced during their work, arranging education classes at their place of work, placing them at the place work they can practice the newly acquired knowledge and skills, education programmes should be more consisten with aims and needs of their organisation, more guidance should be giving regarding how to work better with co-operative field, environment of the education classes should be well equipped with the proper facilities and website should be displayed regarding the syllabus and necessary materials.

In short, majority of respondents are satisfied with the present status of the education classes and have suggestion to make the education classes more and more practical rather than theoretical.

### REFERENCES

- Amichand Patel. "Sahakari Dharam", "Sahakar" magazine, Gujarat State Co-operative Union, Ahmedabad, 2006. | B. S. Mathur, Co-operation in India, Sahitya Bhavan, Agra, 2000. | G. S. Kamat, New Dimension of Co-operative Management, Himalaya Publishing House, Bombay, 2004. | Review of Co-operative Activities of the Union, Gujarat State Co-operative Union, Ahmedabad, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06. | Gram Swaraj, monthly magazine of Gujarat State Co-operative Union, Ahmedabad. | Sahakar, weekly news paper of Gujarat State Co-operative Union, Ahmedabad.