
WELFARE SCHEMES AND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN IN INDIA – A STUDY

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Abstract:

Welfare is the provision of a minimal level of well-being and social support for all citizens, sometimes referred to as public aid. In most developed countries welfare is largely provided by the government, and to a lesser extent, charities, informal social groups, religious groups, and inter-governmental organizations. First, gender inequality in India can be traced back to the historic days of Mahabharata when Draupadi was put on the dice by her husband as a commodity. The early twenty century, it was rise of the National Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi who was in favour of removing all the disabilities of women. At the same time, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and various other social reformers laid stress on women's education, prevention of child marriage, withdrawals of evil practice of sati, removal of polygamy etc. A policy is a principle or protocol to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. Policies are generally adopted by the Board of or senior governance body within an organization whereas procedures or protocols would be developed and adopted by senior executive officers. Policies can assist in both subjective and objective decision making. Now the women in India enjoy a unique status of equality with the men as per constitutional and legal provision. But the Indian women have come along way to achieve the present positions.

Keywords: Governance, Programmes, Policy, Welfare

Introduction:

Welfare is the provision of a minimal level of well-being and social support for all citizens, sometimes referred to as public aid. In most developed countries welfare is largely provided by the government, and to a lesser extent, charities, informal social groups, religious groups, and inter-governmental organizations. The welfare state expands on this concept to include services such as universal healthcare and unemployment insurance. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. Policies are generally adopted by the Board of or senior governance body within an organization where as procedures or protocols would be developed and adopted by senior executive officers. Policies can assist in both subjective and objective decision making. Policies to assist in subjective decision making would usually assist senior management with decisions that must consider the relative merits of a number of factors before making decisions and as a result are often hard to objectively test e.g. work-life balance policy. In contrast policies to assist in objective decision making are usually operational in nature and can be objectively tested e.g. password policy.

The term may apply to government, private sector organizations and groups, and individuals. Presidential executive orders, corporate privacy policies, and parliamentary rules of order are all examples of policy. Policy differs from rules or law. While law can compel or prohibit behaviors (e.g. a law requiring the payment of taxes on income), policy merely guides actions toward those that are most likely to achieve a desired outcome. Policy or policy study may also refer to the process of making important organizational decisions, including the identification of different alternatives such as programs or spending priorities, and choosing among them on the basis of the impact they will have. Policies can be understood as political, management, financial, and administrative mechanisms arranged to reach explicit goals.ⁱ

Women Welfare and Protection in India

Women welfare is a debatable subject. At earlier time they were getting equal status with men. But they had faced some difficulties during post -Vedic and epic ages. Many a time they were treated as slave. From early twenty century (national movement) their statuses have been changed slowly and gradually. In this regard, we may mention the name of the British people. After then, independence of India, the constitutional makers and national leaders strongly demand equal social position of women with men. Today we have seen the women occupied the respectable positions in all walks of the fields. Yet, they have not absolutely free some discrimination and harassment of the society. A few numbers of women have been able to establish their potentialities. Therefore, each and every should be careful to promote the women statuses. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India even today. The paradoxical situation has such that she was sometimes concerned as Goddess and at other times merely as slave.

History is a witness that women were made to dance both in private and public places to please the man. Secondly, in Indian society, a female was always dependent on male members of the family even last few years ago. Thirdly, a female was not allowed to speak with loud voice in the presence of elder members of her in-laws. In the family, every fault had gone to her and responsible. Fourth, as a widow her dependence on male members of the family still more increase. In many social activities she is not permitted to mix with other members of the family. Other hand, she has very little share in political, social and economic life of the society. The early twenty century, it was rise of the National Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi who was in favour of removing all the disabilities of women. At the same time, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and various other social reformers laid stress on women's education, prevention of child marriage, withdrawals of evil practice of sati, removal of polygamy etcⁱⁱ.

Education

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA: Education for All): The Right to Education (RTE) Act, enacted in 2009 and enforced from 1.4.2010, gave a statutory base for providing education. SSA, launched in 2001-02, addresses the educational needs of children in the age-group of 6-14 years by strengthening educational infrastructure in terms of opening of new schools, construction, renovation and expansion of school buildings and providing other amenities like text books etc. It covers about 194 million children in over 1.22 million habitations.

Health

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM): In order to provide health security, especially to women, children and the poor residing in rural areas, NRHM was launched in 2005. It adopts a synergistic approach covering vital determinants of health like nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and safe drinking water. Its major goal is to reduce infant and maternal mortality rate, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases etc. The programme has been instrumental in the decline in the infant mortality rate from 58 in 2005 to 50 in 2009 and increase in the institutional delivery from 10.84 million in 2005 -06 to 16.21 million in 2009-10.

JananiSurakshaYojana (JSY): JSY, launched on 12.4.2005, is a safe motherhood intervention under the NRHM. It is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo- natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant womenⁱⁱⁱ. The National Movement and various reform movements paved the way for their liberations from the social evils and religious taboos. In this context, we may write about the Act of Sati (abolish) 1829, Hindu Widow Remarriage Act' 1856, the Child Restriction Act, 1929, Women Property Right Act, 1937 etc. After independence of India, the constitution makers and the national leaders recognized the equal social position of women with men^{iv}.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 has determined the age for marriage, provided for monogamy and guardianship of the mother and permitted the dissolution of marriage under specific circumstances. Under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, an unmarried women, widow or divorce of sound mind can also take child in adoption. Similarly, the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 says that any person who gives, takes, or abets the giving or taking of dowry shall be punished with imprisonment, which may extend to six months or fine up to Rs.5000/ or with both. The Constitution of India guarantees equality of sexes and in fact grants special favours to women.

The welfare of women flows from the power. It is vesting where it does not exist or exist inadequately. Welfare of women would mean equipping women to be economically independent, self-reliant, have positive esteem to enable them to face any difficult situation and they should be able to participate in development activities. Today we have noticed different Acts and Schemes of the central government as well as state government to empower the women of India. But in India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society whether it is social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, and also reproductive healthcare. Women are found to be economically very poor all over the India. A few women are engaged in services and other activities. So, they need economic power to stand on their own legs on per with men. Other hand, it has been observed that women are found to be less literate than men. According to 2011 census, rate of literacy among men in India is found to be 76% whereas it is only 54% among women^v.

Another problem is that workplace harassment of women. There are so many cases of rape, kidnapping of girl, dowry harassment, and so on. For these reasons, they require welfare of all kinds in order to protect themselves and to secure their purity and dignity. To sum up, women welfare can not be possible unless women come with and help to self-empower themselves. There is a need to formulate reducing feminized poverty, promoting education of women, and prevention and elimination of violence against women^{vi}.

Gender equality is guaranteed under the constitution of India which not only prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex but goes beyond that and permits positive discrimination in favour of women.

Further, our country is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) under which we have an obligation to work towards ensuring gender equality. Several constitutional provisions reiterate India's commitment towards the socio-economic development of women and uphold their right of participation in political and decision making processes. As a home to about 586 million women, which constitute about 48.5 of the total population of the country, India has taken several measures to secure gender parity in all walks of social, economic and political life. To realize the above constitutional goal, the focus of our planning process has evolved from a purely welfare oriented approach to recognizing women's centrality in the developmental framework, to welfare module and now to recognizing women as agents of change.

While in the Sixth and in the Seventh Five year Plans, the emphasis was primarily on health, education and employment of women, a marked shift could be seen in the approach of Eight year plan where 'welfare' of women was recognized and accepted as a distinct strategy. This was further taken forward in the Ninth plan with the introduction of the concept of Women's Component Plan whereby identified ministries were required to indicate the flow of funds to the women's programmes and schemes. The Ninth Plan approach was to access women living in poverty and to guide them to help themselves through initiative like Self-Help Groups (SHG).

In the Tenth Plan, for the first time, monitor -able targets were set for a few key indicators of human development, which include reduction in gender gaps in literacy, wage rates and reduction in maternal mortality rate.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan was aimed at inclusive development and it was recognised that the aim of inclusiveness would be attainable only if women, who constituted about half the population, were given the opportunity to develop to their full potential and share the benefits of economic growth and prosperity. Towards this end, the plan sought to empower women and recognize their agency by mainstreaming gender in all sectors as well as by undertaking targeted interventions. The Plan period saw the introduction many new schemes and programmes targeted at particular groups or aimed at addressing specific issues. These included SABLA, for empowering adolescent girls, IGMSY for supporting poor women during the final stages of their maternity, Ujjwala for combating trafficking and Dhanalakshmi to tackle the issue of declining sex ratio. The Plan mentioned Gender Budgeting and Gender Outcome assessment and underlined the importance of Gender Audits of public expenditure, programmes and policies at national, state and district levels. The plan further envisaged the strengthening of the Gender Budget Cells set up in the various Ministries and Departments.

The Twelfth Plan has identified the key elements for gender equity to be addressed in the next five years as economic welfare, social and physical infrastructure, enabling legislations, women's participation in governance, inclusiveness of all categories of vulnerable women, engendering national policies/programmes and mainstreaming gender through gender budgeting.

Legislative Provisions and Women Welfare

The National Policy for Welfare of Women, 2001 (NPEW) was formulated as the blueprint for the future, with the express goal of addressing women's felt needs and bringing about their advancement, development and welfare.

Main features of the Policy

- The advancement, development and welfare of women in all spheres of life.
- Introduction of more responsive judicial legal system that is sensitive to women's needs.
- Ensuring women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making.
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in development process.
- Strengthening and formation of relevant institutional mechanism.
- Partnership with community based organisation; and
- Implementation of international obligations, commitments and cooperation at the international, regional and sub -regional level^{vii}.

The NPEW was envisaged as a comprehensive framework which is progressive and forward looking in nature. The policies/programmes of the Government are already directed towards achieving inclusive growth with special focus on women in line with the objective of the National Policy for Welfare of Women.

The National Commission for Women Act, 1990: The Act mandates the formation of a National Commission for Women to examine, investigate and review the formulation and implementation of various Constitutional provisions, policies and legislations concerning women. It elaborates upon the formation, procedures, powers and functions of the Commission. Some of the important functions of the Commission include, investigation and examination of all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws, regular review of the existing provisions of the Constitution and laws affecting women and recommend amendments to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations, taking up cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities, looking into complaints and take suo moto notice of matters relating to deprivation of women's rights, non - implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and non - compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women. The Policy highlights the principle of gender equality as enshrined in the Constitution, the efforts made within the framework of a democratic polity, laws, development policies, plans and programmes to achieve women's advancement in different spheres and the commitment of the State to secure equal rights of women as evident in the form of ratification to international conventions like Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1993.

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

The Act aims to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner. It defines indecent representation of women as the depiction in any manner of the figure of a woman; her form or body or any part thereof in such way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to, or denigrating women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals. The Act puts a restriction on the publishing or sending post, books, pamphlets, etc., containing indecent representations of women, and prohibits all persons from getting involved directly or indirectly in the publication or exhibition of any advertisement containing indecent representations of women in any form. The Act confers the power on the gazetted officer authorised by the State Government to enter and search any place in which he has reason to believe that an offence under this Act has been or is being committed. The contravention of the provisions of the Act is penalized with imprisonment and fine.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

The legislation aims to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family. The Act provides protection to the wife or female live-in partner from violence at the hands of the husband or male live-in partner or his relatives, the law also extends its protection to women who are sisters, widows or mothers. Domestic violence under the Act includes actual abuse or the threat of abuse whether physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic. The Act gives a detailed account of the duties, responsibilities and powers of police officers, protection officers, service providers and magistrate in relation to the incidents and cases of domestic violence. It provides for appointment of Protection Officers to handle the cases of domestic violence. The role of NGOs in providing assistance to the woman with respect to medical examination, legal aid, safe shelter, etc., has also been described in the legislation.

The Government, in February 2012, constituted a High Level Committee on the Status of Women to undertake a comprehensive study to understand the status of women since 1989 as well as to evolve appropriate policy interventions based on a contemporary assessment of women's needs.

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 Act has been in implementation since 1961 to prohibit the evil practice of giving and taking of dowry. The Act underwent amendments in the year 1984 and again in 1986. the Ministry is at present considering further amendments to the Act based on suggestions received from the National Commission for Women in 2009, recommendations given by an Inter-Ministerial Group constituted in 2010 and based on recommendation received through regional and national consultations held by the Ministry with various stake holders. Separately, the Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha which examined a Petition praying for amendments in Section 498A of IPC, inter alia recommended that Dowry Prohibition Act may be strengthened. For the purpose of finalizing the amendments, a Review committee was also constituted, which submitted the report in July 2012. A meeting with the women members of Parliament was also held on 30th August, 2012 under the Chairpersonship of Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Women and Child Development to discuss various aspects of the Dowry Prohibition Act, wherein they gave various suggestions on the proposed amendments. All these recommendations/ proposals/suggestions have been examined and a Cabinet note incorporating the amendment proposals is now being finalized in the Ministry.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act:2005

Violence against women takes various forms, including physical, economic, social, and psychological. The PWDVA is a civil law which seeks to provide immediate support to women victim of domestic violence in the form of shelter, medical facility and reliefs in the nature of protection, residence, compensation, maintenance orders as well as orders for temporary custody of children. It entitles victim to support services like shelter, medical relief, legal assistance and counseling. The law also widens the meaning of the word 'aggrieved woman' by including women who face domestic violence in relationships other than matrimonial relationships like daughters, mothers, sisters and those involved in marriage like relationships and providing a women's right to reside in the shared household. The Act came into force on 26th October 2006. The Ministry has been reviewing implementation of the Act with the State Government from time to time. The implementation was discussed in the two days conference of State Ministers in charge of Women and Child Development on 13-14 September, 2012. Non-availability of independent protection officers has come up often in

discussions as a limitation in the implementation of the Act. The Ministry has formulated a scheme for assistance to State Government for implementation of the Act, as a component of the Umbrella scheme on Protection and Welfare of Women.

The Indecent Representation of Women Act, 19 86

The Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986 was enacted with the specific objective of prohibiting indecent representation of women in advertisement, publication, writing and painting or in any other manner and references that are derogatory to the dignity of women. Contravention of relevant provisions of the Act is punishable with imprisonment, of either description, for a term which may extend upto two years and with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees on first conviction and in the event of a second or subsequent convictions imprisonment for a term not less than six months, but may extend upto five years and with fine not less than ten thousand rupees, which may extend upto one lakh rupees.

The Act, in its present form, relates primarily to the print media. In view of the development of newer forms of communication such as internet and satellite based communication, multi-media messaging, cable television etc. the Act has become too inadequate the narrow in its scope. Government has approved amendments proposed by the ministry relating, primarily to broadening the scope of the law to cover audio-visual media and material in electronic form and revising the penalties. The amendment Bill is currently with the Parliament.

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 is a legislative act in India that seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work. It was passed by the Lok Sabha (the lower house of the Indian Parliament) on 3 September 2012. It was passed by the Rajya Sabha (the upper house of the Indian Parliament) on 26 February 2013. The Bill got the assent of the President on 23 April 2013. The Act came into force from 9 December 2013. Whereas sexual harassment results in violation of the fundamental rights of a woman to equality under articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution of India and her right to life and to live with dignity under article 21 of the Constitution and right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business which includes a right to a safe environment free from sexual harassment; and whereas the protection against sexual harassment and the right to work with dignity are universally recognized human rights by international conventions and instruments such as Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, which has been ratified on the 25th June, 1993 by the Government of India; and whereas it is expedient to make provisions for giving effect to the said Convention for protection of women against sexual harassment at workplace^{viii}.

The Bill drafted by the Government for this purpose got the approval of the Lok Sabha on 3rd September 2012 and the Rajya Sabha on 26th February 2013. The Bill seeks to cover all women, irrespective of there are or employment status and protect them from sexual harassment at all workplaces as clients, customers and apprentices, students in educational institutions and patients in hospitals etc., are also sought to be covered under the Bill^{ix}.

National Policies and Schemes for women Welfare

The National Policy for Welfare of Women 2001 has as its goal bringing about advancement, development and welfare of women in all spheres of life through creation of a more responsive judicial and legal system sensitive to women and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process. The strengthening and formation of relevant institutional mechanisms and implementation of international obligations/ commitments and co-operation at the international, regional and sub-regional level was another commitment. The National Policy for Welfare of Women 2001 has as its goal bringing about advancement, development and welfare of women in all spheres of life through creation of a more responsive judicial and legal system sensitive to women and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process. The strengthening and formation of relevant institutional mechanisms and implementation of international obligations/ commitments and co-operation at the international, regional and sub-regional level was another commitment.

Old Age Pension Scheme

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is a national Old Age Pension Scheme in India. It was launched by Ministry of Rural Development. All persons of 60 years and above (revised downwards from 65 in 2011) and belonging to below the poverty line category according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India time to time, are eligible to be a beneficiary of the scheme. The pension amount, as of Union Budget 2012 -13 is INR 200 per month per person from 60 – 79 years and INR 500 per month per person for those 80 years and above and states are supposed to contribute an equal amount vis-a-vis the scheme. While the Indira Gandhi National Pensions for widows and disabled people was doubled in the Union Budget of 2012 -13, bringing it to Rs300 per month, the Old Age Pension for people aged under 80 years was not raised. The Indira Gandhi Pension schemes are capped so that very few of those entitled to a pension, as they meet the criteria of having incomes below the official poverty line, actually receive one^x.

Self Help Group Scheme

Self-help group (SHG) is a village-based financial intermediary usually composed of 10–20 local women or men. A mixed group is generally not preferred. Most self-help groups are located in India, though SHGs can also be found in other countries, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Members make small regular savings contributions over a few months until there is enough capital in the group to begin lending. Funds may then be lent back to the members or to others in the village for any purpose. In India, many SHG's are 'linked' to banks for the delivery of micro-credit. A Self-Help Group may be registered or unregistered. It typically comprises a group of micro entrepreneurs having homogeneous social and economic backgrounds, all voluntarily coming together to save regular small sums of money, mutually agreeing to contribute to a common fund and to meet their emergency needs on the basis of mutual help. They pool their resources to become financially stable, taking loans from the money collected by that group and by making everybody in that group self-employed. The group members use collective wisdom and peer pressure to ensure proper end-use of credit and timely repayment. This system eliminates the need for collateral and is closely related to that of solidarity lending, widely used by micro finance institutions^{xi}. To make the book-keeping simple enough to be handled by the members, flat interest rates are used for most loan calculations.

National Rural Health Mission

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is an initiative undertaken by the government of India to address the health needs of underserved rural areas. Founded in April 2005 by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the NRHM was initially tasked with addressing the health needs of 18 states that had been identified as having weak public health indicators. Under the NRHM, the Empowered Action Group (EAG) States as well as North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh have been given special focus. The thrust of the mission is on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter -sectoral convergence at all levels, to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of determinants of health such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality. Institutional integration within the fragmented health sector was expected to provide a focus on outcomes, measured against Indian Public Health Standards for all health facilities. As per the 12th Plan document of the Planning Commission, the flagship programme of NRHM will be strengthened under the umbrella of National Health Mission.

Accordingly, the Union Cabinet, in May 2013, has approved the launch of National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as a sub -mission of an overarching National Health Mission (NHM), with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being the other sub-mission of the National Health Mission^{xii}. Some of the major initiatives under National Health Mission (NHM) are as follows:

Accredited Social Health Activists

Community Health volunteers called Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) have been engaged under the mission for establishing a link between the community and the health system. ASHA is the first port of call for any health related demands of deprived sections of the population, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services in rural areas. ASHA Programme is expanding across States and has particularly been successful in bringing people back to Public Health System and has increased the utilization of outpatient services, diagnostic facilities, institutional deliveries and inpatient care.

RogiKalyanSamiti (Patient Welfare Committee) / Hospital Management Society
TheRogiKalyanSamiti (Patient Welfare Committee) / Hospital Management Society is a management structure that acts as a group of trustees for the hospitals to manage the affairs of the hospital. Financial assistance is provided to these Committees through untied fund to undertake activities for patient welfare.

JananiSurakshaYojana

JananiSurakshaYojana is an Indian Government scheme proposed by the Government of India. It was launched on 12 April 2005 by the Prime Minister of India. It aims to decrease the neo-natal and maternal deaths happening in the country by promoting institutional delivery of babies. It is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme it integrates cash assistance with delivery and post -delivery care. The success of the scheme would be determined by the increase in institutional delivery among the poor families. In this scheme, one important role is of the ASHA activist whose role can be of an encouraging person in the field to encourage institutional deliveries among the poor women. JananiSurakshaYojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women. The Yojana, launched on 12th April 2005, by the

Hon'ble Prime Minister, is being implemented in all states and UTs with special focus on low performing states. JSY is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme and it integrates cash assistance with delivery and post -delivery care. The success of the scheme would be determined by the increase in institutional delivery among the poor families. The Yojana has identified ASHA, the accredited social health activist as an effective link between the Government and the poor pregnant women in low performing states, namely the 8 EAG states and Assam and J&K and the remaining NE States. In other eligible states and UTs, wherever, AWW and TBAs or ASHA like activist has been engaged in this purpose, she can be associated with this Yojana for providing the services.

Indira Gandhi MathaSamrakshanaYojna (IGMSY) -Conditional MaternityBenefit (CMB)

Indira Gandhi MathaYojana (IGMSY)- Conditional Maternity Benefit Indira Gandhi MatritvaSehyogYojana (IGMSY) - Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100% funding from Govt. of India. For pregnant and lactating women is being implemented on pilot basis in Panchkula district.

Beneficiaries

Pregnant Women of 19 years of age and above for first live births are entitles for benefits under the scheme. All Government/PSUs (Central &State) employees will be excluded. To improve the health and nutrition status of pregnant, lactating women and infants by:

1. Promoting appropriate practices, care and service utilization during pregnancy, safe delivery and lactation.
2. Encouraging the women to follow (optimal) IYCF practices including early and exclusive breast feeding for six months.
3. Contributing to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.

Benefit of the Scheme

Under the scheme cash transfer of Rs. 4000/- after second trimester till the child attain the age of six months subject to fulfilment of conditions mentioned in the schemes would be given to each pregnant and lactating mothers.

Swawlamban Scheme

This Scheme was being implemented with the financial assistance from the Govt. of India till 31.3.2006. Total 97 NGOs were provided financial assistance of 317.00 lakhs for providing training to poor & needy women for their skill up-gradation. This Scheme has now been transferred to the State Govt. During the year 2010-11, the corporation has provided financial assistance to 12 Organizations to impart the training programme in various trades i.e. Readymade Garments, Food Processing, Leather Artisan, Beauty Culture, Embroidery, Shorthand & Typing/ Data processing and Dari Weaving of amounting to 29,71,856/-

Budgetary Provision

Various schemes for women & child development implemented directly by the Women & Child Development Department, Haryana under state and central sectors and through Andhra Pradesh Women Development Corporation, Andhra Pradesh State Social Welfare Board and Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Women and NGOs by providing financial assistance. Originally, a budget allotment of Rs. 54638.85 lacs was made in the year 2011-12 under various schemes and heads, which was revised to Rs 60042.62 lacs. Expenditure of Rs. 510 76.18 lacs incurred under different schemes and activities, out of which Rs. 17906.13 lacs were under State Plan, Rs. 24075.38 lacs under Central Plan and Rs. 9094.67 lacs under Non Plan heads.

Financial Assistance Component

- (a) 75% of the cost of construction of the building of working women hostel only on public land.
- (b) Financial assistance for hostels to be run in rented premises. Amount of rent shall be as assessed by the State PWD/District Collector. The rent received from the inmates shall be utilized for maintenance, house- keeping, security service, office establishment, expenditure towards water and electricity charges and any other support services other than mess.
- (c) One-time non-recurring grant at the rate of Rs.7500/- per inmate at the time of commencement of the hostel for purchase of furniture (including bed, table, chair, almirah etc.) and furnishings.
- (d) Grant of up to Rs.5.00 lakh for the purposes of maintenance and repair of hostel building constructed under the scheme, subject to the satisfactory performance of the hostel for more than 5 years immediately preceding the application for such grant.
- (e) A matching grant (50:50) for building construction may be offered to the corporate houses under the Scheme on public land only. For the component of corporate partnership, a Tripartite MoU indicating financial contribution of each partner along with responsibilities of monitoring and periodic evaluation of the scheme shall be signed among the Govt. of India, State Govt. and the partner organisation as and when such proposal is received. A model tripartite MoU will be developed in due course in this regard
- (f) The inter-se allocation for plan fund under this scheme shall be in the ratio of 87% for construction grant including furnishing, 10% for rented accommodation, 2.50% maintenance and 0.5% evaluation of scheme. However, Ministry of WCD shall have discretion to change inter -se allocation, if required.

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