



DCWC Newsclip

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FIVE MINISTRIES TEAM UP IN BID TO IMPROVE MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

POLIO FREE INDIA TO GET WHO CERTIFICATION

INDIA LAUNCHES HIV SALVAGE THERAPY

HRD LAUNCHES SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

NIRBHAYA FUND GETS RS 1000 CRORE

2014

Documentation Centre on Women and Children (DCWC)
**National Institute of Public Cooperation
and Child Development (NIPCCD)**

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DCWC Newsclip

About the Document

DCWC receives about daily 21 newspapers (including 9 Hindi newspapers) published from different regions of the country. Important news items, including various schemes and programmes of Government of India focusing on women and children issues are picked and arranged subjectwise under broad heads and sub-heads. These are collated monthly as 'DCWC Newsclip'. Its digital version is posted on the NIPCCD website (www.nipccd.nic.in) on the slot dedicated for Documentation Centre on Women and Children for reference of readers.

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Source

<i>Amar Ujala</i>	<i>Free Press Journal</i>	<i>Pioneer</i>
<i>Asian Age</i>	<i>Hindu</i>	<i>Nav Bharat Times (H)</i>
<i>Assam Tribune</i>	<i>Hindustan (H)</i>	<i>Punjab Kesari</i>
<i>Dainik Jagran (H)</i>	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	<i>Rajasthan Patrika</i>
<i>Deccan Chronicle</i>	<i>Indian Express</i>	<i>Rashtriya Sahara (H)</i>
<i>Deccan Herald</i>	<i>Jansatta (H)</i>	<i>Statesman</i>
<i>Economic Times</i>	<i>Lok Panchayat (H)</i>	<i>Times of India</i>
		<i>Tribune (H)</i>

1. Child Welfare

1.1 Child Protection (Juvenile Homes/Juvenile Age/Child Abuse/Child Labour/Cyber Sex Victims)



Amar Ujala (H), February 28, 2014, P.6
(Juvenile Homes)



Amar Ujala (H), February 19, 2014, P.6
(Juvenile Homes)



The Hindu, February 26, 2014, P.3
(Juvenile Homes)



The Times of India, February 28, 2014, P.6
(Juvenile Homes)



The Indian Express, February 19, 2014, P.4
(Juvenile Homes)



The Asian Age, February 28, 2014, P.4
(Juvenile Age)

सुधार गृह में बिगड़ल बच्चे!

■ नगर संवाददाता, मुखर्जी नगर

बाल सुधार गृह में रह रहे नाबालिग बच्चों द्वारा आए दिन कभी आगजनी, कभी उत्पात तो कभी पत्थरबाजी जैसी घटनाओं को अंजाम दिए जाने की घटनाओं पर लगाम क्यों नहीं कसी जा रही है? आखिर क्या वजह है कि तमाम व्यवस्था और सुरक्षा गार्डों को धता बताकर ये बच्चे कभी आग लगा देते हैं, तो कभी भारी तोड़फोड़ मचाते हैं?

हालांकि इस मामले में महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के आला अधिकारी कुछ बोलने को तैयार नहीं, लेकिन हकीकत यह है कि ऐसी घटनाएं अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों की मिलीभगत का नतीजा है। आरोप



सुधार गृहों में अव्यवस्था चरम पर होने की शिकायतें मिलती रही हैं, बच्चों को यहां समय पर सुविधाएं भी नहीं मिल पाती हैं

है कि बच्चे सामान जलाते हैं और इस खरीदारी में काफी लोगों का हित तोड़फोड़ करते हैं, तो फिर से नए छुपा होता है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि सामान की खरीदारी की जाती है और छोटी-मोटी घटना पर भी बच्चे आग

बाल सुधार गृह में बच्चों के तोड़फोड़, उपद्रव और आगजनी की ढेरों घटनाएं

लगा देते हैं और उन्हें रोकने वाला कोई नहीं है।

मुखर्जी नगर बाल सुधार गृह में लगभग 51 सिक्पूरिटी गार्ड की तैनाती की गई है, जिसमें एक शिफ्ट में 17 गार्ड तैनात रहते हैं। इन गार्डों की तैनाती के बाद भी बच्चे आपस में मारपीट, तोड़फोड़, आगजनी जैसी घटनाएं अंजाम देते हैं और इसे रोकने वाला कोई नहीं है। सत्र बताते हैं कि

ऐसा लगता है कि ये बच्चे अपनी मनमानी करते हैं। हकीकत यह भी है कि इन सुधार गृहों में अव्यवस्था चरम पर होती है। बच्चे अक्सर खाने-पीने, दवाई को लेकर हंगामा करते हैं। समय पर इन्हें सुविधा नहीं मिलती।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि इस सुधार गृह पर लगभग छह वेलफेयर अधिकारी हैं, 5 हाउस फादर हैं और काफी संख्या में केयर टेकर भी हैं। इन सबका काम इन बच्चों को बेहतर सुविधाएं देना है, लेकिन ऐसा होता नहीं है।

सुधार गृह में काम करने वाले लोग यहां तक आरोप लगा रहे हैं कि हर बार जब आग लगती है तो उसके बाद फिर से नए सामान खरीदे जाते हैं और इस खरीदारी में सबका मुनाफा होता है।

Nav Bharat Times (H), February 25, 2014, P.5

(Juvenile Homes)

Court issues guidelines for juvenile homes

GREATER VIGILANCE ■ Directs Delhi govt to implement security measures in all homes within two weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

JUVENILE homes in the capital are now set to be put under strict security, with the Delhi High Court issuing detailed guidelines and measures to maintain peace and security in the government-run homes.

The court had taken suo motu cognisance of the issue after multiple cases of escape, arson and violence were reported from juvenile homes in the past year.

The court of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and R V Easwar has given two weeks to the government to implement the measures suggested as part of the 'Advisory on Amendments in the Delhi JJ Rules 2009' to the department of Women and Child Development. It directed the Finance Department to speedily deal with the proposal of utilising ex-servicemen, by contract, for the purpose of maintaining peace and order in juvenile homes and said

all the guidelines issued "shall be embodied in a circular and notified for action and implementation, by all concerned within two weeks".

Senior Advocate A J Bhambhani, appointed as amicus curiae in

BRINGING ORDER

- Hire ex-servicemen on contract to secure homes
- Install CCTV cameras to keep check on inmates
- Surprise checks of dormitories, toilets and bathrooms
- Complaints to be reported to house representative first, then caregiver
- Prepare roster duty for patrolling officers

the case, had submitted several suggestions to improve the situation in government-run juvenile homes. The Delhi government had also filed an affidavit with proposed measures that had been taken up in discussions by the WCD Department and various government and non-government agencies.

The security measures enlisted by the court stressed upon the need for the presence of "sufficient number of guards" at the juvenile homes, "at all times, with the dormitories to be guarded from within by house representatives at night.

CCTV cameras will be installed to keep a check on the inmates, and regular searches will be undertaken at night to ensure that juveniles are not exposed to drugs, weapons or other dangerous material.

"In particular, bathrooms and toilets are to be searched every day, while dormitories are to be searched at least once a week. Special precaution is to be taken for the safe custody of the children with addiction/allied problems and they are to be searched twice daily, if possible," the court said. Surprise

searches of the staff will also be conducted, the guidelines state.

The court also directed that medical or other complaints made by the juvenile be reported to the house representative first, and then the caregiver. The caregiver will decide what action should be taken, the court said. On the subject of regular patrolling by officers, the court ruled that a roster of duty be prepared and "displayed in some prominent place".

In case a caregiver is informed of an incident, potentially leading to unrest, the caregiver "shall bring the same to the notice of the officer-in-charge, who shall take such necessary steps as may be the need of the hour to keep the situation under control, while informing the Board about it," the court said.

The Indian Express, February 19, 2014, P.3

(Juvenile Homes)

UN report lambasts Vatican over child sex abuse

Reuters

reuters@hindustantimes.com

GENEVA: The United Nations demanded on Wednesday that the Vatican "immediately remove" all clergy who are known or suspected child abusers and turn them over to civil authorities, in an unprecedented and scathing report.

The UN watchdog for children's rights said the Holy See should also hand over its archives on sexual abuse of tens of thousands of children so that culprits, as well as "those who concealed their crimes", could be held accountable.

The watchdog's exceptionally

blunt paper — the most far-reaching critique of the Church hierarchy by the world body — followed its public grilling of Vatican officials last month.

"The Committee is gravely concerned that the Holy See has not acknowledged the extent of the crimes committed, has not taken the necessary measures to address cases of child sexual abuse and to protect children, and has adopted policies and practices which have led to the continuation of the abuse by and the impunity of the perpetrators," the report said.

However, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations accused the UN on Wednesday of distorting facts

in its damning report which denounced the Church for failing to stamp out child abuse.

The report failed to take into account the fact that the Vatican had made "a series of changes for the protection of children", and its efforts at reform were "facts, evidence, which cannot be distorted," Silvano Tomasi said in an interview with Vatican Radio.

But the UN committee on the Rights of the Child said the Catholic Church had not yet taken measures to prevent a repeat of cases such as Ireland's Magdalene laundries scandal, where girls were arbitrarily placed in conditions of forced labour.

It called for an internal investiga-

tion of the laundries and similar institutions so that those who were responsible could be prosecuted and that "full compensation be paid to the victims and their families". A commission created by Pope Francis in December should investigate all cases of child sexual abuse "as well as the conduct of the Catholic hierarchy in dealing with them," the report said.

Abusers had been moved from parish to parish or other countries "in an attempt to cover-up such crimes," it added. Meanwhile, the victims groups hailed the report as a wake-up call to secular law enforcement officials to investigate abuse and any cover-ups.

Hindustan Times, February 6, 2014, P.20

(Child Abuse)

UN slams Vatican over child abuse by priests

Attacks Church's 'Code Of Silence', Says The Guilty Must Be Handed Over To Civilian Authorities

Geneva/Vatican City: The United Nations demanded that the Vatican "immediately remove" all clergy who are known or suspected child abusers and turn them over to civil authorities, in an unprecedented and scathing report on Wednesday.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child said church officials had imposed a "code of silence" on clerics to prevent them reporting attacks to police, and moved abusers from parish to parish "in an attempt to cover up such crimes".

It said the Holy See must hand over an archive of evidence about the abuse of tens of thousands of children, and take measures to prevent a repeat of cases such as the scandal of Ireland's Magdalene laundries, where girls were forced to work in church-run institutions.

The Vatican responded quickly, saying the Roman Catholic Church was committed to "defending and protecting the rights of the child" and promising to give the United Nations report "thorough study and examination".

The exceptionally blunt paper — the United Nations' broadest critique of the Church hierarchy — followed its public grilling of Vatican officials last month.

"The Committee is gravely concerned that the Holy See has not acknowledged the extent of the crimes committed, has not taken the necessary measures to address cases of child sexual abuse and to protect children, and has adopted policies and practices which have led to the continuation of the abuse by and the impunity of the perpetrators," the report said.

It urged the Vatican to "immediately remove all known and suspected child sexual abusers from assignment and refer the matter to the relevant law enforcement authorities for investigation and prosecution purposes."

Pope Francis has called sexual abuse of children "the shame of the Church" and has vowed to continue procedures put in place by his predecessor Benedict XVI.

The report said a commission that Francis set up in December should invite outside experts and victims to participate in an investigation of abusers "as well as the conduct of the Catholic hierarchy in dealing with them."

"Due to a code of silence imposed on all members of the clergy under penalty of excommunication, cases of child sexual abuse have hardly ever been reported to the law enforcement authorities in the countries where such crimes occurred," it said.

Barbara Blaine of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) said the report was a "wake-up call": "For the safety of children, we hope every head of state on the planet reads this and acts on it."

At a public session last month, the committee pushed Vatican delegates to reveal the full scope of decades of sexual abuse of minors by Roman Catholic priests.

The Holy See's delegation, answering questions from an international rights panel for the first time since the scandals broke more than two decades ago, denied allegations of a Vatican cover-up and said it had set clear guidelines to protect children from predator priests.

Wednesday's report called for an internal investigation of the Magdalene laundries and similar institutions so that those who were responsible could be prosecuted, and "full compensation" could be paid to victims and families.

It also said priests who had fathered kids should be held accountable and made to provide for their upkeep. **REUTERS**

The Times of India, February 6, 2014, P.22 (Child Abuse)

Hand over child abusers to cops, UN tells Vatican

Report slams Church's 'code of silence' on issue

GENEVA/VATICAN CITY: The United Nations on Wednesday accused the Vatican of systematically turning a blind eye to decades of sexual abuse of children by priests, and demanded it immediately turn over known or suspected offenders to civil justice.

A scathingly blunt report by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child said Church officials had imposed a "code of silence" on clerics and moved abusers from parish to parish "in an attempt to cover up such crimes".

It said the Holy See must hand over an archive of evidence about the abuse of tens of thousands of children and take measures to prevent a repeat of cases such as the scandal of Ireland's Magdalene Laundries, where girls were forced to work in church-run institutions.

In its own combative response, the Vatican said the Roman Catholic Church was committed to protecting children. It called the report "distorted" and "unfair".

It added that the report had failed to properly consider measures the Church has introduced in the past decade to

protect children.

"This committee has not rendered a good service to the United Nations," Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, head of the Vatican delegation to UN organisations in Geneva, told Vatican Radio.

Reacting to the report's demands for changes in its opposition to homosexuality, abortion and artificial contraception, the Vatican accused the committee of interfering in religious freedom and trying to dictate modifications to "non-negotiable" moral teachings.

Tomasi said non-governmental organisations that favour gay marriage—which the Vatican opposes—had probably influenced the committee to reinforce what he called "an ideological line" in the report.

The committee said it was "gravely concerned that the Holy See has not acknowledged the extent of the crimes committed, has not taken the necessary measures to address cases of child sexual abuse and to protect children, and has adopted policies and practices which have led to the continuation of the abuse by and the impunity of the perpetrators".

Reuters

Deccan Herald, February 6, 2014, P.15
(Child Abuse)

Children unaware of lurking danger

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 16

Schoolchildren are increasingly falling prey to the lures on social networking and chatting sites, and are passing on personal revealing photographs and videos that are then circulated on the Web.

These videos and photos often come back to haunt them for years together and leave psychological scars when they go viral.

City psychologists are

witnessing similar cases every day and it takes months for the victims to get over the trauma, affecting their academic and other activities.

In a recent case, parents of a Class IX child who was excellent in academics, observed a change in his grades (from A to D) following which the working couple, as punishment, disconnected the cable and Internet connections and took away his phone.

The child immediately developed withdrawal symptoms and exhibited mood swings, anxiety, and violent behaviour and kept away from social activities and games, and refused to venture out of home.

The worried parents approached a psychologist and the child subsequently revealed that while browsing for a science project, he had noticed a pop up of a woman posing nude and out of curiosity, he had clicked on it and

started browsing the related links. Daily, he started spending hours on sex chat lines.

Consultant psychiatrist Dr Purnima A. Nagaraja, who dealt with the case, said, "More than 50 per cent of the cyber sex victims fall into the trap laid by their own family, friends or familiar people. It initially begins with accepting a random friend request from someone which finally ends in a trap that affects one for life."

Deccan Chronicle, February 17, 2014, P.2

TROUBLE ONLINE

WATCH OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD VIEWS

Kids falling prey to cyber sex traps; getting depressed

PARENTAL GUIDANCE MUST

Pre-teens are addicted to sites the portray cartoon characters like Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Popeye and Olive Oyl in "action".



REASONS FOR KIDS BECOMING VICTIMS

- Lack of communication between children and parents.
- No proper sex education
- Educational institutions don't discuss sex, considering it as taboo.
- Too much exposure to Internet.
- Children's energy not properly channelised
- Parents fail to recognise the change in behaviour of their children.

EXPERTS' ADVISE FOR PARENTS

- Avoid providing cell phones and other gadgets to your kids unless it is extremely important.
- Supervise your child's exposure to electronic media, magazines, newspapers and Internet.
- Keep track of their social networking accounts.
- Keep a watch on activities like midnight browsing and exchange of text messages.
- Schools should encourage sex education.
- Don't overlook the changes in behaviour of your child or drop in his/her grades.
- Talk to your growing child about sex freely.

Deccan Chronicle, February 17, 2014, P.2
(Cyber Sex Victims)

बाल श्रम कानून के निषेधात्मक दायरे में नहीं आते टीवी शो के बाल कलाकार

नई दिल्ली, 9 फरवरी (भाषा)। फिल्मों, टीवी धारावाहिकों, विज्ञापनों और रियलिटी शो में काम करने वाले बच्चे बाल श्रम (निषेध और नियमन) अधिनियम के निषेधात्मक प्रावधानों के दायरे में नहीं आते, केवल उनके कामकाज के घंटे और काम के हालात इसके तहत विनियमित होते हैं।

सूचना का अधिकार कानून के तहत श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय से प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार, 'फिल्मों, टीवी धारावाहिकों, विज्ञापनों और रियलिटी शो में काम करने वाले बच्चे बाल श्रम (निषेध और नियमन) अधिनियम 1986 के निषेधात्मक प्रावधानों के दायरे में नहीं आते, केवल उनके कामकाज के घंटे और स्थितियां इसके तहत विनियमित होती हैं।'

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि राज्यों का श्रम विभाग प्रदेशों में इस कानून को लागू करने के लिए जिम्मेदार है। सूचना के अधिकार के तहत हिसार स्थित आस्टीआई कार्यकर्ता नरेश कुमार ने इस बारे में मंत्रालय से जानकारी मांगी थी। बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग ने कुछ समय पहले कहा था कि धारावाहिकों, रियलिटी शो में काम करने वाले बच्चों को बच्चा रहने दिया जाए। बच्चों की भावनात्मक, मानसिक और मनोवैज्ञानिक हालात पर चिंता व्यक्त करते हुए बाल आयोग ने सिफारिश की थी कि टीवी चैनलों में बच्चों से अभिनय कराते समय उनसे हिंसात्मक, अश्लील या भेद संवाद कहलाने या हिंसात्मक दृश्य कराने से रोका जाए।

Jansatta (H),
February 10, 2014, P.2

1.2 Role of Civil Society/Statutory Bodies/Civil Society Initiative (Police Initiative-Safety of Women and Children/NCPCR Database-Children of Denotified Tribes)

Optimally citizen -centric

In the last couple of years, the issue of women's safety has garnered much public attention and concern in Delhi. In order to dispel some of the negative perceptions commonly associated with the police, a two-pronged approach has been worked out to ensure that women's grievances are registered with alacrity and they are treated with due respect at police stations.

MORE RECEPTIVE TO WOMEN COMPLAINANTS

Separate women's help desks, manned by women officers round-the-clock, with exclusive direct telephone lines have been established in each of the 161 police stations in the city. The officers have been instructed to record women's complaints verbatim in a manner that accurately reflects the magnitude of the crime and register cases immediately on all cognizable complaints, applying all sections of law as per the offences made out from the complaint.

Gender sensitization courses are organized for police personnel to ensure that they respond empathically to women's complaints. They have been expressly instructed not to disclose names of women complainants providing confidential information about someone committing an offence. The Parivartan Scheme, where women beat constables interact with women residents of underprivileged colonies, has also been beefed up. The law pertaining to crimes against women have been made

more stringent. These measures have encouraged the women to lodge their complaints without any hesitation.

AUGMENTATION OF POLICE DEPLOYMENT

Additionally, several measures have been taken to resolve women's safety issues and a zero tolerance policy has been adopted against people misbehaving with women. PCR vans and motorcycles are deployed outside girl's colleges and schools to deter eve-teasers. The women's helpline 1091 is widely publicized and the number of lines has been increased from 4 to 10. Similarly, the number of lines for the number 100 has been enhanced from 60 to 100.

A total of 370 additional PCR vans have been inducted and 1606 additional women police personnel have been sanctioned. Security audit of around 400 women's hostels and paying guest accommodations has been conducted. A Special Commissioner level police officer has been appointed as Nodal Officer to deal with women-related issues. There has been an overhaul of the thana-level committees to include women representatives, NGOs and academicians heading girls' institutions.

PROTECTION OF THE ELDERLY

In continuation of their efforts in combating crimes against the vulnerable sections of society, registration of senior citizens went on during 2013. Other than those senior citizens living alone, efforts were also made to bring those people within the ambit of registration who are left

alone for long hours when the other family members go out for work. Security audit of 17357 senior citizens was conducted by local police to strengthen their security during the last two years. A new initiative during the year 2012 was the issuance of identity cards to the senior citizens registered with Delhi Police. A total of 15788 identity cards have been issued in the last two years. As a special gesture, police station staff and officials of Senior Citizens Security Cell reach out to senior citizens telephonically and through personal visits. A total of 405931 visits and 280221 numbers of telephonic contacts were made in the last one year.

TRACKING THE MISSING CHILDREN

FIR is registered without any delay on receipt of complaint of a missing child under the head of 'kidnapping' and no time is lost in uploading information about missing children on ZIPNET. Last year, 5793 number of kidnapping cases were registered as against 3675 cases in 2012. All traced children were produced before secretaries of the concerned District Legal Services Authorities.

District Missing Persons Unit (DMPU) at the District level and Missing Persons Squad for the whole of Delhi under Crime Branch monitor the cases of missing children. There is one Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in each district and one in the Crime Branch. Rescue operations for children who are forced into labour are also undertaken with the help of NGOs.

To deal with cases in which investigation of kidnapping (related to missing children) was being decelerated due to absence of photographs of the children, Pehchaan Scheme was launched. Under this scheme, a photograph is taken of the family with all children and a copy of the photograph is given to the family for record so that in case a child is reported missing, his photograph can be made available. This scheme has been implemented in areas where a large number of children are reported

Making the city safe for the most vulnerable sections of our society, including women, children and senior citizens, remains the primary focus of the law enforcers in Delhi

The Times of India, February 16, 2014, P.11
(Police Initiative-Safety of Women and Children)

Finally, capital wakes up to children of 'infamous' tribes

Last Data Recorded In 1931, DCPCR Tries To Create Database

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: In a first for the city, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has launched a study into the status of children of "denotified tribes" like Sapera and Sansi. Poor and neglected, these people live in makeshift clusters with no definite livelihood. The last data on these tribes was collected in a caste census carried out in 1931.

The capital, surprisingly, has numerous nomadic communities—Bawaria, Sansi, Bhedkut, Gadia Lohar, Banjara, Rai Sikh, Sapera, Singhi, Bahelia, Kalander, Nat, Kanjar, Ode and Perna.

DCPCR chairperson Arun Mathur said the study, started in December, "is an attempt to create a database on children of these communities to facilitate programme interventions by the state government, municipal corporations and NGOs". The study team has been asked to submit its report by April.

Families with children in the 14-18 years age group have been picked at random for the survey which covers 11 districts with a sample size of 100 in each.

The data will include individual factors like age, sex, education, religion and caste, and household factors like the type of house, income level, and availability

NOMADIC COMMUNITIES IN DELHI

TRIBES AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD

Sapera | Snake charming, drum beating at weddings, begging

Perna | Prostitution

Sanshi/Bhedkut | Distilling and selling illicit liquor

Gadia Lohar | Iron working

Bawaria | Quackery, stealing, begging

Bahelia | Bird catching

Nat/Bhopa | Street acrobatics, juggling, puppetry

Kalandar/Madarl | Performing on streets, begging

Singhi | Quackery, fortune telling

Rai Sikh | Carpentry

Mahavat | Begging

Banjara | Hawking

Ode | Digging

Kanjar | Scavenging, prostitution, begging



WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

► These tribes are a deprived and marginalized section of society

► They face social stigma and injustice. In 1871, the British notified 150 tribes as 'criminal'

► The British law was repealed in 1952

► Children in these tribes are victims of violence

► The literacy rate is less than 1%

► They were last counted in the caste-based census of 1931

of welfare measures such as ration card, old age pension and caste certificates. Community factors like sanitation, public toilets, public transport services, electricity, schools, hospitals as well as community centres are also covered.

DCPCR held a consultation with NGOs and experts working with the children from these tribes in December last year. Ramesh Praneesh, consultant for the project with DCPCR, said the

tribes are still suffering the effects of an 1871 British law—Criminal Tribes Act—that declared about 150 of them 'criminal' and gave police wide powers to arrest them and monitor their movements.

"Just being born into one of those 150 tribes made a person a criminal. The government of India repealed this draconian act in 1952 but their case has not received sufficient attention from democratic polity and civil

society. Their closed, inward-looking cultures have also been an obstacle in the way of change and development," Ramesh said, adding that the children of these tribes are influenced by their environment of "uncertainty, insecurity, polygamy and physical violence".

Ramesh Rahi from All India Sahasnaal Bhanu Samaj Sangh said about two lakh Sansis live in Delhi. "Many are engaged in sale of illicit liquor. Those who want to give it up are forced to do the same work," he alleged. J R Sharan, managing trustee of Sankalp Foundation, which rescues and rehabilitates sex workers, said the Bedias push their girls into sex work at G B Road brothels as prostitution has been a traditional livelihood for them.

Such stories of neglect and poverty abound in Rangpuri Pahari and Mahipalpur also that have concentrations of Sapera (snake charmers) and Singhi (quacks) communities. Nats, who make clay toys, beat drums and beg for a living, are concentrated in northeast Delhi's Ekta Vihar, Sonia Vihar and Rajeev Gandhi Camp.

Kalanders live in Kalander Colony near Dilshad Garden. With street shows using monkeys and bears banned, they are reduced to street performers and magicians, and even resort to begging.

The Times of India, February 24, 2014, P.4

(NCPCR Database-Children of Denotified Tribes)

1.3 Education/Education System (Nursery Admissions-Upper Age Limit/Disabled Kids/ Primary Education-Regional Language/School Leadership Programme /No Male Teachers-Punjab/ Madarsas/ASER Data/ Basic Facilities/ Enrolment Rate/School Dropouts)

Nursery admissions: Govt scraps transfer point benefit after 'misuse' reports
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday withdrew the criteria of "five" transfer points allocated for nursery admissions in the capital. The city administration told the Delhi High Court that the decision had been taken in the wake of complaints about the widespread misuse of the benefit.

The Department of Education informed Justice Manmohan that it had carried out a survey in 58 leading private schools and found massive misuse of the inter-State transfer points.

A notification in this regard will come on Thursday. The L-G's submission could impact the ongoing admission process as it could result in draw of lots for nursery admissions all over again in unaided private schools in Delhi.

The division Bench of Acting Chief Justice BD Ahmed and Justice S Mridul on Tuesday had questioned the logic behind awarding of transfer points and had said the practice could lead to "malpractices."

"Why should there be points for transfer? What is the logic behind it? You know it's open to malpractices?" the Bench had asked while directing the Delhi Government to submit a report by Friday.

The court was hearing a PIL by advocate Rohit Nagpal, who challenged the benefit of five points under the head of inter-State transfers in the nursery admission guidelines issued by the L-G. Nagpal also sought directions to the L-G to issue a fresh set of guidelines with regard to admission to nursery in school during 2014-2015.

Continued on Page 4
From Page 1

Under the current guidelines, out of total 100 points, 70 are given if the kid lives in the six-km radius of the school, 20 if a sibling is studying there, five points if either parent is an alumni and five points if it's a inter-State transfer case, the petition said.

Only those having 75 points are considered for draw of lots while those have 90 points are automatically admitted, the petition said. Nagpal has also challenged the awarding of 20 points if a sibling is studying in the school, saying it "creates a class which is assured of admission even without being subject to lottery system" and contended "the present selection criteria are arbitrary".

The Pioneer, February 27, 2014, P.1+4
(Nursery Admission)

जनजातीय बच्चों को अंग्रेजी हिंदी ने किया पढ़ाई से दूर
प्रियंवदा सहाय

नई दिल्ली। अपनी मातृभाषा में शिक्षा उपलब्ध नहीं होने के चलते जनजातीय बच्चे पढ़ाई से दूर होते जा रहे हैं। हिंदी या अंग्रेजी माध्यम में शुरूआती पाठ्यक्रम होने के कारण ज्यादातर जनजातीय बच्चे बीच में ही पढ़ाई छोड़ दे रहे हैं। इन बच्चों के लिए अधिकांश राज्यों में खोले गए आश्रम विद्यालयों में इसी माध्यम में शिक्षा दी जाती है लेकिन प्रारंभिक स्तर पर ज्यादातर जनजातीय बच्चों को यह भाषा समझ में नहीं आती है। इसलिए इन बच्चों के लिए शुरूआती पाठ्यक्रम हमेशा उनकी मातृभाषा में होना चाहिए। सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता से संबंधित संसद की स्थायी समिति ने सरकार से यह सिफारिश की है।

समिति का कहना है कि स्कूली शिक्षा शुरू करते समय यह जरूरी नहीं कि सभी बच्चों को हिंदी या अंग्रेजी का ज्ञान हो, इसलिए बच्चों की पढ़ाई उन्हीं की भाषा में होनी चाहिए। बाद में उनको हिंदी या

इन बच्चों को प्रारंभिक स्तर पर उन्हीं की भाषा में शिक्षा देने की सिफारिश

अंग्रेजी माध्यम में शिक्षित होने का विकल्प मिलना चाहिए। इसके अलावा इन बच्चों के कैरियर परामर्श और वैकल्पिक शिक्षा पर भी समिति ने विशेष जोर दिया है ताकि बच्चों में जीवन संवारने के लिए नौकरी या आजीवनिका के बेहतर माध्यम को ओर रुझान बढ़ सके। समिति को उम्मीद है कि जनजातीय बच्चों की पढ़ाई छोड़ने पर अंकुश लगाने में यह कारगर साबित होगा।

संसदीय समिति ने इस पर तत्काल पहल करने की सिफारिश की है। वर्ष 2009 में इंडियन मार्केट रिसर्च ब्यूरो की ओर से किए गए सर्वे के मुताबिक सर्वाधिक जनजातीय बच्चे प्राथमिक और माध्यमिक शिक्षा बीच में छोड़ देते हैं। 10 वर्षों के अंदर प्राथमिक स्तर पर ही शिक्षा छोड़ने वाले छात्रों का प्रतिशत 55 फीसदी रहा है।

Amar Ujala (H), February 24, 2014, P.9
(Primary Education-Regional Language)

सिलेबस • एससीईआरटी ने छह बोलियों में तैयार की हैं नई किताबें, बदलेगा पहली व दूसरी का पाठ्यक्रम

अपनी बोली में पढ़ेंगे पहली व दूसरी के छात्र

पत्रिका
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छत्तीसगढ़ की सरकारी स्कूलों में पहली व दूसरी कक्षा का पाठ्यक्रम अगले सत्र से पूरा नया होगा। सत्र 2014-15 के लिए राज्य शैक्षिक अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान (एससीईआरटी) ने छह बोलियों को जोड़कर नया पाठ्यक्रम तैयार किया है। किताबें अप्रैल होने के बाद प्रिंटिंग के लिए भेजी जा रही हैं। छात्रों को पाठ्य-पुस्तकों के जरिए ग्रामीण परिवेश से लेकर शहरी परिवेश और प्रदेश की कला व संस्कृति की जानकारी दी जाएगी। इन पुस्तकों के जरिए उनके व्यक्तिगत क्षमताओं की पहचान व चौतरफा विकास पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाएगा। एससीईआरटी ने पाठ्यक्रम, पढ़ाने और किताबों के प्रारूप तैयार करके सरकार को जल्द सौंपने की तैयारी में है।

ये हैं सिलेबस

एससीईआरटी के उप संचालक डॉ. योगेश शिवहरे ने बताया कि पहली व दूसरी के बच्चों को उनकी क्षेत्रीय भाषा के आधार पर पाठ्यक्रम की सुविधाजनक बनाया गया है। इसमें दलेवाड़ा गोंडी, हल्बी, काकिर गोंडी, कुडुक, सरगुजिया भाषा शामिल हैं। 'अ' से अनार, 'आ' से आम... आदि की पढ़ाई बच्चे अब अपनी बोली में भी करेंगे। इससे उन्हें हिन्दी सीखने में भी सहूलियत होगी। एससीईआरटी करीब छह साल के बाद बच्चों के पाठ्यक्रम में

इसलिए पढ़ी जरूरत

एससीईआरटी के अंदरूनी सर्वे में वर्तमान के पाठ्यक्रम से बच्चों पर कारगर प्रभाव नहीं पड़ रहा है। मीरूर सिलेबस व बोली में पढ़ने में बच्चों को अड़चन हो रही है। इसलिए विभाग ने स्कूल शिक्षा विभाग की राय पर पाठ्यक्रम में बदलाव करने की सिफारिश की थी। इसमें अब टेस्ट बुक के साथ वर्कबुक भी होगी।

ये होंगे फायदे

- हर क्षेत्रीय बच्चे आसानी से पढ़ सकेंगे।
- शिक्षकों को भी बच्चों को समझाने में सहूलियत होगी।
- बच्चों को चित्रों के जरिए अधिक सम्मग्नता जाएगी।
- टेस्टबुक के साथ पहली बार वर्कबुक भी होगी।

फैक्ट फाइल

- 2014-15 सत्र से स्कूलों में नई किताबें होंगी लागू।
- 37755 कुल स्कूल हैं प्राथमिक शालाओं में।
- सत्र 2014-15 के लिए पहली व दूसरी के बच्चों का पाठ्यक्रम परिवर्तित किया जा रहा है। एससीईआरटी ने नई किताब तैयार कर ली है, किताबें टाइपिंग के लिए भेजी गई हैं। किताबें डिजिटल फॉर्मेट रूप में बनीं होंगी। बच्चों के पढ़ने के बाद जो परिणाम और तुलनाएं आंखें उनके अनुभूत पाठ्यक्रम को ठीक कर लिये जाएंगी।

अनिल राय, संस्कार, एससीईआरटी

Rajasthan Patrika (H), February 12, 2014, P.6 (Primary Education-Regional Local Language)

Schools using age ruse to reject RTE admissions

Plaints flood Task Force, but BEOs clueless about redressing them

Shruthi H M

BANGALORE: Lack of clarity on the upper age limit for admissions under the RTE Act is causing much confusion in the ongoing admission process for the academic year 2014-15.

On the one hand, schools appear to be using it as an excuse to reject applications while on the other, Block Education Officers (BEO) are clueless about tackling the issue.

Take for instance Namitha (name changed), who is now four years and three months old. The child who was born on November 30, 2009, was denied admission to LKG in a school in RT Nagar last year for the reason that she did not complete three years 10

months at the time of admission. This year again, the school has rejected her admission on the grounds that she is "too old" for LKG. As per the State government rules, a child can be enrolled for LKG if he or she has completed three years 10 months or four years old.

In case of class I, the student should have completed at least five years 10 months. For children between five years and five years 10 months, the government will permit admission after a written letter from the parent that the early admission of their child is voluntary.

"The school cannot take the decision to reject the child. Yet, in this school, admission to the child was rejected for two consecutive years," said Manjunath, Namitha's uncle and a child rights activist.



In another school in the city, the management had decided that they would give admissions to children born only in June 2008. "So the applications are rejected if the child is born a month earlier or later," Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust, who is also part of the RTE Task Force, said, citing a complaint from a parent. He said that it was high

time that the government stipulated an upper age limit. The Task Force had received complaints from several parents in the city that schools were using age as an excuse to reject applications.

One of the BEOs in the city told *Deccan Herald* that they too were in the dark.

"We have written to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) seeking clarity in the issue," DPI director (primary) K Ananda said the government permits enrolment in government schools, of children who have crossed the age limit in case the child has never gone to school earlier.

However, with regard to admission in unaided schools under RTE reservation quota, there is no upper limit for age prescribed.

No 'neighbourhood'

The RTE Task Force has received numerous complaints that in rural areas, panchayat limits are being considered for admissions instead of the neighbourhood schools concept prescribed by the government. Even if the child is staying less than a kilometre away from school, he or she will not get admission if he or she is from a different panchayat limit.

"We have sent recommendations to the department based on complaints from parents, but there has been no response," Nagasimha Rao said. The Task Force is receiving at least 30 complaints every day. This is likely to increase, with no clarity from the department's end, he said.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, February 25, 2014, P.5 (Nursery Admissions-Upper Age Limit)

'Can't allow schools to run like shops'

Soibam Rocky Singh
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NEW DELHI: Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung on Monday sought the dismissal of the petitioner filed by a Private Schools committee at the Delhi High Court.

The petition was filed against last year's guidelines for nursery admission in the Capital.

The L-G, in his response to the petition, said the private unaided schools were seeking "an undue privilege in the garb of autonomy in the matter of right to admit students of their own choice." Jung said

"Commercialisation of education is prohibited; educational institutes cannot be allowed to run as teaching shops as the same would be detrimental to equal opportunity to children."

The December 18, 2013 notification had cancelled the 'management quota' and introduced a point system, giving maximum credit to children residing within an 8-km radius of the school.

The court will continue to hear the L-G's response on Tuesday. Earlier, the court had refused to stay the new norms for this year's nursery admissions. But it had allowed private schools' plea to be heard

on merit at a later date.

Jung said, in the absence of criteria for nursery admissions, both parents and children are subjected to various screening procedures including written tests and interviews. Section 13 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 prohibits any kind of screening procedure for admission in schools including private unaided recognised schools. "Needless to say, the experience is not only traumatic for the children and their parents but also a pathway for corruption," Jung said.

Hindustan Times, February 25, 2014, P.3
(Nursery Admissions)

HRD launches school leadership programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To raise the level of learning in schools and bring about a holistic development among students, HRD Ministry on Wednesday launched a programme to inculcate leadership qualities among school heads and teachers to achieve such goals.

"Academic findings indicate that the most critical part of any school system that impacts learning is school leadership. We thus need a national school leadership curriculum that transforms each school," HRD Minister MM Pallyam Raju said while launching the initiative.

As part of the programme, a 'National Centre for School Leadership' (NCSL) will be set up, which will create a critical mass of well-trained teams of trainers who would contribute to the leadership development for school principals and headmasters.

"As per the RTE mandates, there should be a headmaster in all schools. This statutory mandate is to ensure that school leadership of good quality is made available so as to ensure better school performance and quality improvement of schools," Raju said.

According to Secretary School Education and Literacy R Bhattacharya, NCSL has already finalised the national programme design and the curriculum framework and has also finalised the handbook for school leadership development along with the training modules for head teachers and principals.

The curriculum framework and the handbook provides detail guidance to the way that the framework and the standards at each of the levels can be operationalised and achieved. The programme would cover about 12 lakh government and aided schools across the country.

Raju said that by the end of 12th Plan, the ministry envisions that all government secondary schools and about 38,000 head teachers of government and aided schools will benefit from the school leadership programme. HRD's Additional Secretary Vrinda Swarup said such an initiative becomes crucial to transform each school in the country.

As per the RTE mandates, there should be a headmaster in all schools. This statutory mandate is to ensure that school leadership of good quality is made available

The Pioneer, February 27, 2014, P.4
(School Leadership Programme)

Calculate seats for disabled kids, HC asks Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the city Government to calculate the number of seats available for seven categories of disabled kids in nursery admissions after implementing the statutory three per cent quota in the total intake by private unaided schools. "To illustrate if the total intake of seats for a given year is in the range of 1,000 the disability quota would be 3 per cent i.e. 30 seats, which would, for each of the seven subcategories work out to 4 seats," a bench of justices S Ravindra Bhat and RV Easwar said. The Government was also asked to find out which schools can cater to which type of disability in order to facilitate a broad scheme under which seats can be earmarked based upon the facilities in an institute.

"The Government of NCT



should indicate which schools are geared up to cater to the concerned disability, i.e. Sight disability, hearing impairment, locomotive disability, blindness, etc... This is in order to facilitate a broad scheme whereby the seats are specifically earmarked having regard

to the facilities in that school so that the highest concentration of students to be admitted from such category are admitted to the concerned institutions," the court said.

Meanwhile, the court said the quota as per the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995 be

kept vacant to await the outcome of the final decision in this case and listed the matter for further hearing on March 12. Before the next date of hearing, the court directed the Centre to indicate the funds available in terms of various schemes under the National Trust for Welfare of Persons Disabilities Act, 1999 and the trusts created under that Act as well as existing schemes formulated by it in that regard. The order came while hearing a plea challenging the Lt Governor's guidelines clubbing disabled kids with children from economically weaker groups (EWS) during nursery admissions.

The high court also made the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, a party in the case "for a fuller appreciation of the issues which are likely to

arise in the present proceedings". During the proceedings, Delhi government said the 3 per cent quota under the Disabilities Act of 1995 would have to be split up within the 25 per cent quota by way of horizontal reservation and the balance within the 75 per cent open category.

The Centre told the court that private schools can earmark seats for children with disability within the 75 per cent quota for open category. The Centre also said "that appointment of children with disability as a disadvantaged group is an enabling provision and would not be a reservation and that the sub-categorisation of 75 per cent reservation under the Right to Education (RTE) Act is within the domain of the state government". Under the RTE Act, 75 per cent seats are open to all while 25 per cent are reserved for EWS category.

The Pioneer, February 27, 2014, P.3

(Nursery Admission-Disabled Kids)

No male teachers, no sexual harassment

statesman news service

CHANDIGARH, 15 FEB: No male teachers, no sexual harassment. It may sound bizarre, but the Punjab government appears to have found this formula to prevent sexual harassment

faced by young girl students in the state-run schools across the state.

As expected, the decision has left the male teachers offended as, they say, the order has put a question mark on the moral values of the teaching fraternity who are presumed to be nation builders.

Citing some complaints against teachers' misbehaviour with girls, the Punjab government decided to shift about 800

male teachers from girls' senior secondary schools and bring in female teachers in their place before the new academic session begins on 1 April.

The decision, however, has not gone down well with the teachers' unions who have already registered their protest and intend to take up the issue with the education minister. The Democratic Teachers Front (DTF), state president Mr Bhupinder Singh Warraich said they will oppose the decision tooth and nail.

"It's a highly derogatory move. Effectively, it indicates the male teachers, all of a sudden, have become a threat to girl students.

We too have daughters and sisters back home and suspecting integrity of every male teacher is highly objectionable," he said. The DTF state secretary, Mr Devinder Singh Punia, said a few teachers might have indulged in indecent behaviour, but that doesn't mean the entire teaching fraternity be treated as morally down.

Senior government officials, however, said the decision should not be seen as against male teachers.

"We feel female teachers could serve as

better guides for girls students while dealing with things like hormonal changes. The same holds true for male students who can have better understanding of boys," said an official.

But many in the teaching fraternity have questioned the decision saying female students need exposure to both male and female teachers in order to be more confident.

The Punjab education minister, Mr Sikander Singh Maluka, said the decision has been taken after many complaints of sexual harassment by male teachers in the recent past.

But some practical problems have already been feared by girls' schools with no male teachers. A group of female principals in Muktsar district recently told state chief minister Mr Parkash Singh Badal that with no male teachers posted in their schools, it will now be very difficult for the female teachers to supervise construction works in the schools, arrange LPG cylinders for the mid-day meal scheme and take educational tours of students. Such jobs were handled by male teachers till now, they said.

The Statesman, February 16, 2014, P.5

(No Male Teachers-Punjab)

Govt's plan to modernise madrasas yet to take off

Neha Pushkarna

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NEW DELHI: Despite 75% madrasas surveyed in the city willing to modernise their curriculum, there is little the Delhi government has done to make it happen.

The plan to modernise madrasas is lying in cold storage till now. The Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) had conducted a study last year to know how many schools would like to integrate subjects like English and Science with religious education.

"About 314 of the 417 madrasas that responded to our survey said yes to modernisation. We had sent the report to the government in December. We will move ahead on the plan once the government gives us a direction," said Safdar H Khan, chairperson of the DMC.

The commission had started the study in July 2012 which was completed in June last year.

The idea to commission such a study was to see if madrasa edu-

PLAN ON HOLD

- 75% madrasas in Delhi are willing to modernise their curriculum as part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

- In a 2013 study, 314 of the 417 madrasas said they were willing to include English and Science along with religious education

- If the new government can tide over objections from hardliners, the city's madrasas can form a common board

- Central funding of ₹300 crore to assist madrasas will go unused if they are unaccredited by the state government or a board

cation in the city can be linked to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

If the new government can tide over objections from hardliners, madrasas in the city can be recognised by forming a madrasa board.

"This will lead to students in

madrasas receiving benefits like midday meals, textbooks and uniforms. A debate on forming a madrasa board has been on for several years.

"The previous government avoided taking a stand on whether it should be formed," said a government official who did not wish to be named.

The DMC had approached 466 madrasas in the city of which 49 refused to respond. Of the rest, over 14,000 children study in residential madrasas while more than 29,000 children are enrolled as day scholars.

Though the Centre provides financial assistance for appointment and training of teachers, purchase of books, setting up libraries and computer labs, only those madrasas, either accredited by the state madrasa board or the state government, can avail it. Central funding of nearly ₹300 crore then goes unused.

Though the AAP government hasn't taken up the matter for action yet, officials say they will "do what is best for the community."

Hindustan Times, February 10, 2014, P.4
(Madarsas)

Question mark over data on learning

Inconsistencies seem to creep in the ASER data when seen at the State-level

Rukmini S.

NEW DELHI: Every year since 2006, the findings of the Annual Status of Education Report have delivered a shock to the Indian education system. An all India (rural) survey carried out by education advocacy group Pratham, the report shows the proportion of children in the 5 to 16 age group who are able to perform in tests on basic reading and mathematics.

Serious questions have been raised on the quality of data collected by Pratham and the government. While it might now be clear that children are not learning enough in school, it is not entirely clear just how much they are learning.

In 2013, less than half the children in Class 8 could do simple division and less than half the children in Class 5 could read two paragraphs of a Class 2 text.

However, when the ASER data is seen at the State-level for specific grades over time, inconsistencies seem to creep in. For instance, at the Grade 5 level, reading ability at the highest level appears to have dropped from 88 per cent to



A group of children checking their school books before going to a school at Karbi Anglong in Assam.—FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

32 per cent over five years in Madhya Pradesh. There seems to be a similar precipitous crash in the State's achievements in mathematics in Class 5. In 2007, Bihar had a far higher proportion of children capable of doing division in Class 5 than Kerala. West Bengal shaved 22 percentage points between 2007 and 2008 in the number of Class 5 students who could read a story. Similar fluctuations were noticed in Chhattisgarh. Yet experts behind

the report do not agree that their data might have problems, or should not be used at the individual State or grade level. "The sample sizes at the State level are large. The variations that you point out have been documented in previous reports as well," said Rukmini Banerji, director of ASER Centre. "The issue of 'learning loss' is well-documented in the U.S. — especially in the context of gaps in schooling such as summer vacations. Clearly

much more research is needed in India to understand children's learning trajectories over time," Ms. Banerji said.

Startling inconsistencies have been noticed in Tamil Nadu. Despite high levels of overall literacy, development and enrolment in higher education, Tamil Nadu has consistently appeared at the bottom of the all India table of ASER findings. In the latest survey, it was the country's worst-performing State at Class 5 level in reading. It was second only to Assam at the bottom of the table in mathematics, surpassed by Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Unsurprisingly, the State has all but dismissed the report. "We do not agree with the findings," a senior School Education Department official said, asking not to be named. The official said that they believed surveys should be carried out in a school environment and not at home, as ASER does, and expressed doubts about the sample.

"In February we will be doing an internal study to assess learning levels in Tamil,

English and Mathematics in all primary and upper primary government schools. That will give a fairer picture," the official said.

At the national level, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been similarly sceptical of the findings. "We believe such surveys should be conducted in school and not at home," NCERT's spokesperson Hemant Kumar told *The Hindu*. The NCERT's National Achievement Survey (NAS), which measures students' achievements on 20 selected questions on mathematics and language, was comprehensive, methodologically sound, and a better measure of comprehension, Mr. Kumar said.

"Both the NAS and the ASER data have limitations, and more importantly they are not designed to be comparable, and so I think it is not useful to try to figure out which one is 'more correct,'" said Karthik Muralidharan, assistant professor in the department of economics at the University of California, San Diego.

(with additional reporting by Asha Sridhar in Chennai)

The Hindu, February 3, 2014, P.16 (ASER Data)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Girls' schools without basic facilities

SIR, This is with reference to the report, 'Parties must take up sanitation issues' (19 February). Even decades after Independence, the people of rural India are yet to get safe drinking water. And a study conducted by UNICEF reveals that "58 per cent of our total population still defecate in the open." This is a violation of basic human rights.

The *Statesman* has rightly quoted Prof KJ Nath, chairman, Arsenic Task Force, as saying that, "Political parties have championed women's rights and eradication of corruption, but no one has raised his voice on the issue of sanitation which is going to be a serious problem for India in the coming years."

The education of girls and healthcare are inextricably linked to the sanitary system and safe drinking water. I am reminded of your report, "Why rural girls drop out" (22 June 2006) and a thought-provoking editorial, "Acutely disgraceful" (25 June 2006). The report carried the then Union Minister for women and child development, Renuka Chowdhury's statement that most girls drop out of school after they reach the age of puberty and that insufficient sanitary conditions in the dilapidated school building force young girls to

stay away from school. Lack of sanitation is the primary factor responsible for the high dropout rate; it supersedes such factors as early marriage, poverty, and the curriculum pressure.

The editorial had appropriately remarked that "it is a collective shame. The reality (government's own statistics) makes a travesty of what must be Dr Manmohan Singh's consummation devoutly to be wished - we need education for all today".

The *Statesman's* caveat in the 2006 editorial and the latest warning by scientists and UNICEF should prompt the government to set its priorities right. Promoting shopping malls, clubs and sports tournaments must be accorded a relatively minor rating.

I quote from the UNICEF report - "Most girls drop out at around the age of 11/12 and miss school because they are not educated about their periods and their need for safe and clean facilities is not prioritised."

In India, 66 per cent of girls' schools do not have functioning toilets for girls, resulting in a dropout rate of more than 40 per cent among girls after they complete the fifth

year in school. Around 23 per cent of the girls drop out of school every year in India due to lack of menstrual hygiene facilities, including toilets, or adequate disposal units for sanitary pads."

My compliments to the scientists and *The Statesman* for highlighting the matter.

Yours, etc., Indrani Guha,
Kolkata, 19 February.

The Statesman, February 21, 2014, P.8 (*Basic Facilities*)

Enrolment for primary education on the decline

Economic Survey figures show alarming signs

Ramzauva Chhakchuak

BANGALORE: The number of children enrolling for lower primary education in the State has seen a decline between 2008-09 and 2012-13.

At the high school level, a drastic fall in enrolment was noticed in 2012-13 after a steady rise in previous years.

Comparative figures in the recently released Economic Survey shows the number of enrolment in classes 1 to 5 was 55.42 lakh in 2008-09.

However, the figure came down to 53.78 lakh in 2012-13. This decline in enrolment was equal among both boys and girls with the number of the former falling from 28.60 lakh to 27.90 lakh during the period whereas of the latter it fell from 26.82 lakh to 25.88 lakh. The survey states that a 'decline in the growth rate of population and the consequent decline in school going age group' was the reason for the decrease.

According to Niranjan Aradhya V P, professor at National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and school education expert, one needs to only join the dots between the growing number of children who are out of school and the decline in enrolment.

"The recently released survey of out-of-school children for ages 6 to 14 puts the figure at 1.70 lakh. We can see a pattern in the decline of enrolment with a steady increase in the



number of children who are out of school. An empirical research on the issue and a serious intervention is needed as to why we are not able to retain children in schools to know why enrolments are declining," he said. "The decline is a matter of great concern, especially in light of the RTE Act being implemented in the past few years," he added.

Growth in high school

So far as high school (class 9 to 10) was concerned, the enrolment has grown steadily from 25.22 lakh in 2008-09 to 26.07 lakh in 2011-12. This, however, sharply fell to 16.67 lakh in 2012-13.

The situation was just the opposite at the higher primary level (classes 6 to 8) where enrolments markedly increased over the five years. For example, between 2008-09 and 2011-12, the number of enrolments marginally increased from 20.28 lakh to 20.75 lakh. In 2012-13, however, this enrolment jumped to 30.17 lakh.

"A transition phase between lower to higher primary classes and then to high school usually witnesses a number of children who drop out. Based on our researches, we have stated the need for school education to be treated as an organic structure and as one compartment," said Aradhya.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, February 17, 2014, P.5
(*Enrolment Rate*)

Highest number of school dropouts in Bangalore Urban district

BANGALORE: A total of 1.70 lakh children were out of school in the last academic year in the State with Bangalore Urban district having the highest number of such kids. Children belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the Muslim community formed the major chunk of them.

These are the findings of the out of school children (OOSC) survey undertaken by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in November last year, following the directions of the Karnataka High Court to determine the exact dropout rates.

A high-level Inter-Departmental Coordination Committee, which included a number of officials from the Primary and Secondary Education department, met on Tuesday to discuss the findings of the

OOSC survey and work on a future action plan. The gender ratio of the total OOSC figure was more or less equal. Of the total figure of 1.70 lakh out-of-school children, 86,705 were boys and 83,820 girls.

As many as 18,393 children in Bangalore Urban South district dropped out of school in 2013-14, of which 9,705 were boys and 8,688 girls. This was closely followed by Gulbarga with 15,468 children – 7,683 boys and 7,785 girls; and Raichur with 12,128 – 5,619 boys and 6,509 girls, respectively.

Uttara Kannada had the lowest out-of-school-children figures with only 686 out of school during this time. Of these, 423 were boys and 263 girls. The second lowest OOSC figures came from Sirsi educational district with a total figure of 1,066

out-of-school children – 572 boys and 494 girls. Udupi with 1,008 children – 535 boys and 473 girls out of school had the third lowest figure.

Yadgir had the highest percentage of school dropouts with 6.32 per cent, while Dakshina Kannada with 0.66 had the lowest. The State average dropout rate was 2.30 per cent.

Of the 1.70 lakh OOSCs, 47,559 belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. This was followed very closely at 46,336 by OBC children and 33,300 children belonging to the Muslim community.

Speaking to *Deccan Herald*, a source said that the government will seek from the High Court two months' time to prepare an action plan to bring in preventive measures to check dropout rates. "In fact, a draft

of the 'preventive protocol' has already been prepared by the education department and it needs to be vetted within two weeks," added the source.

Officials also highlighted the need to co-ordinate the efforts of various departments to bring down the dropout rates. "The Labour department as well as the Women and Child Welfare department have their own figures on children. They need to be co-ordinated," said the source.

The High Court had admitted a public interest litigation petition on the issue of out-of-school children following a newspaper report that put the State dropout figure at 51,994 students aged between six and 14. The government has to submit the findings of the survey to the court on Wednesday.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, February 5, 2014, P.5
(School Dropouts)

Activists contest State's survey on school dropouts

Ramzaava Chhakhuak

BANGALORE: The State has claimed that 1.70 lakh children, between the ages of 6 and 14, were out of school in 2013-14, citing the latest Out of School Children (OOSC) Survey released by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

The State's Education Department had, however, said that only 51,994 children were school dropouts before the actual survey.

However, social activists, have now contested even the latest figures put out by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan survey. Citing a pilot survey carried out in Yadgir by Don Bosco Centre for Social Action, since 2011 and updated in 2013, social activists have asserted that according to the data collated

from only eight villages in the district, there were as many as 900 out of school children.

The OOSC survey report, released by the State Education department, on the other hand, stated that there were 11,197 school dropouts in the entire district with several hundred villages. The Bosco survey has been provided to SSA for comparison and tallying. "The district office at Yadgir has been asked to send specific data on eight villages for comparison in order to get clarity," an official source said.

The difference in figures, the official observed, might be due to different methodologies employed by the two surveys. While the OOSC survey has gathered details from households as well as school records, Bosco survey has collected details only from households. Of

the 11,197 school dropouts, the household survey found 6,177 children dropped out during this period and 729 children had never enrolled in schools. The school survey found 4,291 children had dropped out.

The SSA survey has been carried out by taking into account rural, urban, vulnerable and non-vulnerable clusters. Accordingly, Yadgir has been classified into 53 rural vulnerable and nine urban vulnerable clusters. The Bosco survey, on the other hand, followed criteria such as migration status, school distance et al. The SSA survey was carried out by education department officials along with the help of NGOs. The Bosco survey was carried out by its staff with help of villagers.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, February 6, 2014, P.5
(School Dropouts)

Sex ratio: Panel wants talks with religious leaders

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

A HIGH-LEVEL committee constituted by the women and child development (WCD) ministry last June has recommended that India revisit its two-child norm as it is related to missing girl children and initiate dialogues with Hindu religious leaders to arrest the falling sex ratio.

The committee on status of women submitted its preliminary report to WCD minister Krishna Tirath Monday.

"The (two-child) norm has continuing biases from the coercive population policies preceding it, stacked against women. Dialogues with Hindu religious leaders to include daughters in rituals and practices will bring down son preference related to socio-cultural practices," said the panel headed by former Panjab University professor Pam Rajput.

It traced the problem to lax implementation of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act and anti-dowry laws. The first such committee formed 40 years ago had stalwarts such as rights activist Vina Mazumdar and lawyer Lotika Sarkar and submitted its seminal report titled 'Towards Equality: The Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India' in 1974.

The Pam Rajput Committee has pressed for speedy passage of Women Reservation Bill but recommended a 50 per cent quota instead of the proposed 33 per cent. It stressed that marital and sexual choices should be ensured through amendments to IPC section 377.

The committee has urged that the impact of identity politics on Muslim women should be studied as such politics leads to communal riots and revives forces that impose outdated values on women, further alienating them from all empowerment initiatives. It also questioned the constitution and role of National Commission for Women.

"The role of National Commission for Women must go beyond reactive interventions to fulfil the proactive mandate of studying, recommending and influencing policies, laws, programmes and budgets to ensure full benefits to stakeholders," the 14-member committee observed and demanded that the WCD minister should be of Cabinet rank.

The Indian Express, February 4, 2014, P.5

Disappearing daughters alarm Gujarat villages

3,682 Villages Have Sex Ratio Of Less Than 800

Bharat Yagnik & Himanshu Kaushik | TNN

ACTION TIME

Child sex ratio	No. of villages 2001	2011
Less than 500	157	172
Less than 800	3,595	3,682

(Child sex ratio - No. of girls per 1,000 boys in 0-6 age group)

Health commissioner P K Taneja says the awareness regarding the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Vadhavo' scheme is being spread to villages

Ahmedabad: In the age of khaps, village panchayats generally hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, especially on matters of gender. But the sarpanch of Fatehgadh in Amreli is an exception. He wants to see more daughters playing on the streets of his village.

Rattled by the scarce number of girls—the village has only 50 girls against 200 boys in the 0-18 years age bracket—sarpanch Vipul Kothiya recently summoned a meeting of all families urging them to strive for at least one girl child per family and correct the imbalance.

"We first noticed very few girls playing in the village streets and an informal survey confirmed our worst fears," says Kothiya. The village has a population of 750 with a sex ratio of 752 girls per 1,000 boys.

The 2011 census revealed that 20% of 18,618 villages in Gujarat have a child sex ratio of less than 800. With a child sex ratio of just 886 per 1,000 boys, the problem has gone from being an urban malaise to a rural one as well. But some village elders are trying to fight back.

Babu Varu, sarpanch of Ghenspur village in Amreli, where the child sex ratio has dropped from 1,077 girls in 2001 to 421 in 2011 says, "The problem is critical. We will rope in teachers to create awareness among women. Teachers will also accompany pregnant women to hospitals to avoid any mischief."

Jayanti Solanki, sarpanch of Dholasan village in Kadi, Mehsana, which has sex ratio of 576 girls, says, "We have made a practice of making couples and guests take a 'save the girl child' pledge at marriages and religious functions."

Health commissioner P K Taneja says the awareness regarding the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Vadhavo' scheme is being spread to villages. "Health workers have been given the task of tracking every pregnant woman and reporting miscarriages to ascertain they were unrelated to sex determination."

The Times of India, February 3, 2014, P.12
(Sex Ratio)

Female foeticide goes unchecked

PORTABLE ULTRASOUND MACHINES USED FOR SEX-DETERMINATION TESTS

RANJEET SINGH JAMWAL
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Chandigarh, 25 February

With portable Chinese mini-ultrasound machines finding their way into the Indian market and being used for illegal pre-natal sex-determination tests, government efforts against female foeticide appears to have suffered a blow.

Haryana's food and drug administration (FDA) has already seized 42 such portable ultrasound machines this month which were being used illegally for pre-natal sex determination tests and that too without due registration with the authorities.

Senior officials suspect many more such machines are still in use not only in Haryana and the National Capital Region but also in other parts of the country.

While some of these machines manufactured by different Chinese firms resembling a computer laptop, others look like a smart phone, with their 4 inches by 6 inches size and touch screen functions.

"For years, we have been keeping a check on registered ultrasound centres (to prevent sex-determination). But the portable Chinese machines remain unregistered, so no one can keep track of them or the tests conducted through them," the FDA commissioner, Dr Rakesh Gupta told The Statesman.

"These are being sold by their importers at a throw away price of Rs 1 to Rs 2 lakhs against the cost of Rs 25 to 40 lakhs for the conventional ultrasound machines being used.

Moreover, these machines are so small in size that one can go door-to-door for conducting sex-determination tests. This is a dangerous trend" he added.

Dr Gupta's team first got hint of the racket earlier this month when one such machine was seized from a quack in Bhiwani.

After working on further leads, separate raids in New Delhi, Manesar (Gurgaon) and Ambala have led to recovery of 42 of such machines. The FDA has sale details of another 60 portable ultrasound machines in the country.

Official sources said quacks remain the biggest buyers of such machines as these portable machines help them make quick money without facing the fear of getting caught.

Some of the registered ultrasound sound centres, with qualified staff, are also suspected to be using these machines along with conventional ones.

Sales of ultrasound machines in India are governed by the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act. "Under the rules, the buyers of such machines have to be registered and need to submit an affidavit that they will not use it for sex determination test. Similarly, the seller has to give a list of buyers every three months," the FDA commissioner, Dr Gupta said.

"But none of these rules is being followed in the case of portable Chinese machines. The importers are simply selling these to anyone for a price. So we cannot keep track of them," he added.

He said to address the problem the Haryana government is in the process of recommending to the Union health ministry for mandatory registration of ultrasound machine importers with the competent authority.

Haryana has a sex ratio of 850 females per 1000 males.

The Statesman, February 26, 2014, P.1 (Female Foeticide)

1.5 Child Welfare -other issues (Aadhar Card-Street Children/Vocational Centre/ Child Protection Day/ School Leadership Development Programme)

मंदबुद्धि बच्चों के लिए वोकेशनल सेंटर शुरू

बेकरी, 23 फरवरी (अस)

रोटरी क्लब रेवाड़ी में के स्थापना दिवस पर रविवार को सेक्टर 3 स्थित गणेशीलाल धर्मशाला के प्रांगण में चल रहे मंदबुद्धि एवं मानसिक रूप से अशक्त बच्चों की संस्था नव प्रेरणा में रोटरी वोकेशनल सेंटर की शुरुआत की गई जिसमें 2.50 लाख रूपए की लागत से बच्चों के लिए सेमी-ऑटोमैटिक होने-पतल एवं अन्य 12 तरह के डिस्पोजेबल सामग्री बनाने की मशीन लगाई गई है। इस मशीन से सभी बच्चों को डिस्पोजेबल सामग्री बनाना सिखाया जाएगा जोकि इन मंद बुद्धि एवं मानसिक रूप से अशक्त बच्चों को रोजगार प्रदान करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा। क्लब के जनसम्पर्क अधिकारी याद सुगन्ध ने बताया कि सेंटर का उद्घाटन जिला पुलिस अधीक्षक पंकज नैन ने किया।

Dainik Tribune (H),
February 10, 2014, P.5
(Vocational Centre)

Aadhar cards to street children

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 9 February

To ensure identity of street children, National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR) has made a move to give Aadhar Cards to all street children in the country on 5 March, its foundation day.

The enrolment will allow them in principle to obtain school admission, open bank accounts and secure government welfare.

Chairperson of NCPCR, Ms Kushal Singh, said that it is an important move to give identity to street children for their development. Not only the children of a particular state will be benefited but also the children of migrant people who live in streets will also be benefited." Sanjay Gupta of NGO Chetna said, "Ensuring identity will help to get provisions which they were not getting, opening bank account in their names, as their lots of money is spend in substance abuse, and other things, as they do not have any option to keep that safe."

He added, "It will also ensure their access to health system. Generally, street children are not attended at government hospitals and PHCs if they go alone without adult support."

The most happiest over the decision were street children as Ms Chandani from Badhte Kadam stated due to lack of identity we were treated as outsiders but this will not only give us the identity but also the rights which we were not getting.

Meanwhile, in another initiative of Rahul Gandhi, vice president National Congress, seeking inputs from civil societies and NGOs on the issue of homeless and street children, Ms Chandani presented their charter of demands to Mr Mukul Wasnik and Mr G Gopal, member of the Congress manifesto drafting committee.

The Statesman, February 24, 2014, P.4
(Aadhar Card-Street Children)

Child Protection Day to be celebrated on March 4

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Feb 26 – The Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR), in collaboration with UNICEF, Assam Field Office, will be celebrating the first-ever Child Protection Day in Assam on March 4 at the TRP Indoor Stadium at Ulubari here.

Leading the country in observing the celebration, more than 1,000 school children and key stakeholders from various parts of the State will gather to mark the occasion.

This was announced by Runumi Gogoi, Chairperson in-charge of ASCPCR, at a press conference held here.

Gogoi said that preceding the Child Protection Day, a series of State-level awareness raising and capacity building workshops and consultations on child protection issues were being organized by the State Commission.

"These discussions are being held from February 26 to March 3, and are expected to lend momentum to focussed deliberation on child protection issues in Assam, bring child protection to the forefront of policy advocacy as well as enhance awareness on the role of the ASCPCR in protecting the rights of children as per the statutory provisions of The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

The discussions at the technical sessions on child protection issues will culminate in the celebration of the State Child Protection Day on March 4, which coincides with the setting up of the ASCPCR in 2005 through a Government of Assam notification dated March 4, 2010.

The Child Protection Day on March 4 will hereafter be celebrated annually as notified by the Government of Assam.

The four technical consultations organized by ASCPCR in partnership with UNICEF in the run-up to the Child Protection Day celebrations will focus on four key issues pertaining to protection of children in Assam.

Starting the series of discussions, day one (February 26), focussed on strengthening the adoption process in Assam, followed by addressing child marriage on day two (February 27), protecting children from child labour and child trafficking on day three (February 28), and finally on Right to Education Act, 2009 on the fourth and final day on March 3. The consultations are being held at the Indian Institute of Bank Management, Khanapara, here and are being attended by a cross-section of stakeholders and duty bearers from the Government, statutory bodies and civil society agencies from all districts of Assam.

UNICEF, a nodal UN agency mandated to work for the rights of children, defined as every human being below the age of 18 years, is also a key development partner to the Government of Assam and ASCPCR in the area of child rights.

The Assam Tribune, February 27, 2014, P.5
(Child Protection Day)

स्कूलों का उत्कृष्टता केन्द्र में कायाकल्प
राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक योजना एवं प्रशासन विश्वविद्यालय (एनयूईपीए)

द्वारा शुभारंभ
राष्ट्रीय स्कूल नेतृत्व विकास कार्यक्रम
डा. एम.एम. पल्लम राजू
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री एवं अध्यक्ष एनयूईपीए परिषद

द्वारा
दिनांक 26 फरवरी, 2014
स्थान
इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सेन्टर, मैक्स मुलर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली

- नैशनल स्कूल लीडरशिप डेवलपमेंट फ्रेमवर्क एवं हैंडबुक जारी किया जाएगा
- विद्यालय सुशासन में सुधार
- प्रधान शिक्षकों और प्रधानाध्यापकों के लिए प्रशिक्षण मॉड्यूल्स
- विद्यालय प्रदर्शन मानकों की ओर बढ़ते कदम

पिछले 5 वर्षों के दौरान 147 लाख अतिरिक्त बच्चे प्राथमिक शिक्षा में शामिल हुए, जिसमें से 56% लड़कियां, 59% मुसलमान, 30% अनुसूचित जाति + अनुसूचित जनजाति थे।
Source-DISE : 2012-13

davp 21101/13/0009/1314

Dainik Jagran (H), February 26, 2014, P.6
(School Leadership Development Programme)

Transforming Schools to Centres of Excellence
National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)
Launches the
National School Leadership Development Programme
by
Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju
Union Minister of HRD and President NUEPA Council

On 26th February, 2014
at
India International Centre, Max Muller Marg, New Delhi

- Release of National School Leadership Development Framework and Handbook
- Improvement in School Governance
- Training Modules for Head Teachers & Principals
- Moving Towards School Performance Standards

During last five years 147 lakh additional children joined elementary education, of which 56 % were Girls, 59% Muslims, 30 % were Scheduled Castes + Scheduled Tribes.

Source-DISE: 2012-13

davp 21101/13/0009/1314

The Times of India, February 26, 2014, P.23

2. Health and Nutrition issues

2.1 Child/Adolescent Health (Child Health-Physical Activity/India Polio Free/SNCU Monitoring/Infant Deaths/RKSK/Infant Deaths)



Hindustan Times, February 16, 2014, P.1+6

(Child Health-Physical Activity)



The Hindu, February 12,
2014, P.18
(India Polio Free)

शिशुओं की जिंदगी पर रहेगी 'मॉनिटरिंग'

उदयपुर नवजात शिशुओं की मृत्युदर कम करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार ने अब प्रदेश में नई पहल शुरू कर दी है। राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के तहत अब प्रदेश के अस्पतालों की नर्सरी (स्पेशियल न्यू बॉर्न केयर युनिट) यानि एसएनसीयू में भर्ती होने वाले शिशुओं के स्वास्थ्य पर छुट्टी के बाद भी पूरे नजर रखी जाएगी। मध्यप्रदेश सरकार की तर्ज पर एसएनसीयू डाटा मैनेजमेंट व फॉलोअप ट्रेकिंग सिस्टम को राजस्थान, महाराष्ट्र और असम में लागू किया जा रहा है। राज्य में संचालित 36 एसएनसीयू में इलाज के लिए आने वाले शिशुओं का रिकॉर्ड भर्ती होते ही ऑनलाइन किया जाएगा और अस्पताल से छुट्टी के बाद आशा सहयोगिनी व एनएनएम घर जाकर जांच उनकी करेगी। प्रदेश की शिशु मृत्युदर को कम करने के लक्ष्य से की जा रही

नर्सिंग स्टाफ की कमी
योजना की प्रभाविता को देखते हुए केन्द्र सरकार ने ट्रेकिंग सॉफ्टवेयर को सर्वकारी सर्वर पर जगह दे दी है और इसे सभी ठज्यों में लागू करने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। फॉलोअप कार्यक्रम के तहत एक कंप्यूटर ऑपरेटर नियुक्त किया जाएगा जो शिशु के परिजनों को फोन करते हुए फॉलोअप रिपोर्ट की जानकारी देगा। इसमें 3333 सहयोगिनी व एनएनएम के मोबाइल में भी मैसज जाएगा ताकि वे परिजनों को जांच के लिए प्रेरित करें।

कवायद युनिसेफ के सहयोग से होगी। दअसल, जन्म लेते ही नर्सरी में भर्ती होने वाले शिशुओं की जान को खतम कई गुना अधिक होता है और घर जाने के बाद स्वास्थ्य पर निगरानी भी नहीं हो पाती।

Rajasthan Patrika (H), February 8, 2014, P.3
(SNCU Monitoring)

Stunted growth in 44% kids

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 9

Andhra Pradesh is among the states with the highest proportion of children with reduced growth rate in its rural areas. Nearly 44 per cent of the children, aged below five, were found to have stunted growth, according to the National Nutrition Monitoring Board survey.

Stunted growth, malnutrition and thinness, all underline the health status of children.

Among children under the age of five, the latest round of the NNMB survey stated that about 36.6 per cent were underweight, 44.7 per cent had retarded or stunted growth.

Nearly 16 per cent children showed signs of thinness, the survey reported. All these are glaring signs of the poor nutritional of children in the state and worse than many others in the country.

● While 36.6% children under five are underweight, nearly 16% of them showed signs of thinness.

Deccan Chronicle, February 10, 2014, P.2

एक भी छूटा घर तोड़ सकता है पोलियो का सुरक्षा कवच

कोलकाता | निधि गाट

पोलियो मुक्त घोषित होने के बावजूद देश में अब भी कुछेक परिवार ऐसे हैं जो अपने बच्चों को पोलियो ड्रॉप पिलाने में विश्वास नहीं करते। विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक अगर ऐसे घरों की तादाद अधिक होती तो इतनी जल्दी पोलियो मुक्त होने की कल्पना नहीं की जा सकती थी। ऐसे घरों की तादाद अधिक होगी तो पोलियो वायरस का खतरा बढ़ सकता है।

पश्चिम बंगाल के हावड़ा जिले का शाहपाड़ा गांव हराल में चर्चा में रहा है। पांचला ब्लाक के इस गांव की चार वर्षीय रुखसार को देश में पोलियो का आखिरी केस माना जा रहा है। तीन साल पहले बच्चों में पोलियो का वायरस देखा गया था। अब वह पूरी तरह ठीक है लेकिन रुखसार के घर से महज 100 मीटर की दूरी पर कुछ ऐसे परिवार भी मिले जो पोलियो ड्रॉप में भरोसा नहीं रखते। ऐसे एक परिवार के चार बच्चों को केवल दो बार ड्रॉप दी गईं जबकि तीन वर्षीय हिना को एक बार भी ड्रॉप नहीं पिलाई गई। माता-पिता इसे अपने धर्म और समुदाय के विपरीत बताते हैं। हिना के पिता बुद्धील कहते हैं, हमने ड्रॉप नहीं पी थी और हमें पोलियो नहीं हुआ तो बच्चों को क्यों पिलाएं?

क्षेत्र में युनिसेफ की मदद से पोलियो कार्यकर्ता का काम कर रही शबाना ने बताया, कई बार हमें घर से बेइज्जत करके भी भगाया गया। रुखसार को पोलियो होने के बाद उसके पिता अब्दुल शाह हर पोलियो दिवस पर लोगों को ड्रॉप पिलाने के लिए कहते हैं। लेकिन ड्रॉप न पिलाने पर अड़े कुछ परिवारों के आगे स्वास्थ्य संगठन सहित क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी भी घुटने टेक चुके हैं। कोलकाता के जिला प्रशासन प्रबंधन अधिकारी हैदर अजीज साफवी कहते हैं, विशेष प्रयास के तहत इमाम और मोलवियों को आगे आने के लिए कहा गया, जिसका फायदा भी हुआ, मगर कुछ लोगों में भ्रम कायम है।

100 घर थे ऐसे: जिन घरों में पोलियो ड्रॉप नहीं दी गई उन पर 'एक्स आर' का निशान लगाया गया है। युनिसेफ पश्चिम बंगाल के क्षेत्राधिकारी मोहम्मद असादुर रहमान कहते हैं, यदि ऐसे घरों की संख्या अधिक होगी तो वायरस का खतरा बढ़ सकता है। पोलियो का औरल वैक्सीन 'हीयर्ड इम्युनिटी' पर आधारित है। इसका मतलब है कि यदि क्षेत्र के दस बच्चे ड्रॉप लें और दो बच्चे न लें तो ड्रॉप लेने वाले बच्चों से बना सुरक्षा कवच उन बच्चों को भी पोलियो वायरस से बचाएगा जिन्होंने कभी ड्रॉप नहीं ली।

रुखसार बनी सबके लिए प्रेरणा

शाहपाड़ा का लोग अब रुखसार के नाम से जानते हैं। दो महीने पहले रुखसार प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह से मिली। यह समय बाल विकास एवं पुर्नहाार कार्यक्रम के तहत स्कूल जाती है। वह डॉक्टर बनना चाहती है। उसकी पढ़ाई का खर्च रोटरी क्लब इंटरनेशनल ने उठाया है। तीन बहनों में दूसरी, रुखसार अब अपने पैरों पर खड़ी हो सकती है। उसकी पोलियो जनित विकलांगता को फिजियोथेरेपी की मदद से 80 प्रतिशत ठीक किया जा चुका है।

नोट : 13 जनवरी 2011 में हावड़ा में ही पोलियो का आखिरी मामला देखा गया था।

सावधानी जरूरी

- पश्चिम बंगाल के शाहपाड़ा गांव की तीन वर्षीय हिना ने एक बार भी नहीं पी ड्रॉप
- हिना के माता-पिता पोलियो ड्रॉप को मानते हैं मजहब व समुदाय के खिलाफ

पांच साल में पोलियो का आंकड़ा

साल	मामले
2010	42
2009	741
1995	50,000
1985	1,50,000

Hindustan (H), February 10, 2014, P.6
(India Polio Free)

As India eyes 'polio-free' tag, Mewat may spoil cheer

ARCHANA JYOTI ■
MEWAT (HARYANA)

India might be gearing up to be certified as a polio-free nation from WHO on Tuesday with not a single new case of polio having been reported in the past three years within the country's boundaries; Mewat in Haryana, however, is among a few bastions in the country that remains vulnerable to the crippling disease.

Having population of 11 lakh, Mewat is one of the most backwards areas in the country, with extremely poor health indicators. High infant and maternal mortality rates, low female literacy rates, poor sanitation and socio-cultural taboos are all part of life in this Muslim-dominated district. "It is the 5th lowest district in country for fully-immunized children," said a senior official from Union Health Ministry.

Since 2001 till 2010 except in 2005, polio cases have been reported from the district. In January 2010, a polio-positive case was reported, prompting the authorities to launch intense polio campaigns and immunizations programmes in Mewat. Nearly three lakh children up to age of five years were administered polio drops in the recent round in the district.

"Also, religious leaders are requested to appeal to the locals to come forward for polio immunization, especially pulse polio for their children. The appeals also read that various Muslim countries have already



Mewat in Haryana is among the few regions in the country that remains vulnerable to the crippling disease

adopted these vacancies for their children and there are no harms in it," said Dr BK Rajora, chief medical officer, Mewat.

The efforts have paid results. Not a single case has been reported since 2010 till date. In 2001-2, 21 cases were reported from Haryana, in 2009, two cases and in 2010, one case.

"However, we can't be complacent as the need to administer polio vaccine doses is yet to be felt among the locals," said Dr Sanjeev Tomar, polio surveillance medical officer of WHO, in-charge of Faridabad, Mewat and Palwal district. Unfortunately, in some pockets of the districts, a large population still resists in bringing their children to the polio booths for administration of the drops.

"Moreover, the district (Mewat) borders with Uttar Pradesh and Delhi and there is risk of importation of the disease," added Dr Jitendra, nodal officer for the immunization programme in the district.

Dr Tomar further said that in some villages people refuse to come to polio camps, citing lack of other health facilities such as inadequate medical human resources and infrastructure as well other devel-

opmental works.

Though the district is considered the third highest settlement polio endemic zone, Delhi and Hardwar being the first two, steps are not being taken to strengthen the health indicators in the district.

Apathy on the part of the Government is starkly visible. For instance, even though a polio case was reported from Punhana village in 2010, lessons are hardly learnt. Against sanctioned 12 medical officers for the block there are just two.

There is no senior medical officer since the last official was retired two years ago. Similarly in Pinguna and Tiar block, both high-endemic zones, there is no medical officer, sources said noting that such complacency will bound to threaten the polio campaign in the country.

Though India was declared polio-free in January this year, officially the World Health Organisation (WHO) will certify it as polio-free on February 11 after the last of random samples picked up are tested. India being declared polio-free is important as it was the only country in the South East Asian region (SEARO) with polio cases.

The Pioneer, February 11, 2014, P.4
(India Polio Free)

देश में 78 हजार नवजातों की हृदय रोग से होती मौत

हर साल 1.5 लाख शिशुओं को दिल की बीमारी देश के शिशुओं में दिल की बीमारी बढ़ना चिंताजनक जागरूकता की कमी से जन्म से हुई बीमारियों का देर से चलता पता

● 30 से 40 साल की उम्र में भी बड़े लॉट अटैक

आगरा, प्रेट्ट : भारत में हर साल हृदय रोग से 78 हजार नवजातों की मौत हो जाती है। चूंकि देश में पर्याप्त चिकित्सा सुविधाएं हैं ही नहीं। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि सिर्फ जागरूकता की कमी के कारण देश के शिशुओं में दिल की बीमारी बढ़ती जा रही है।

एक चिकित्सकीय शिविर में महात्मा गांधी कार्डियक के मुख्य हार्ट सर्जन डॉ. मुर्तजा विश्वी ने बताया कि हर साल 1.5 लाख शिशु हृदय रोग से जन्मजात पीड़ित होते हैं। चूंकि लोग इस बात से वाकिफ नहीं हैं इसलिए वक्त रहते इलाज नहीं हो पाता। और ऐसे बच्चों की जान को हमेशा खतरा बना रहता है। इतना ही नहीं, तीस साल से चालीस साल की उम्र में भी इसीलिए दिल का दौरा अधिक पड़ने लगा है। कई बार ऐसे देखा गया है कि

कम उम्र में आने वाले जानलेवा अटैक के लक्षण शिशु के तौर पर ही दिखने लग जाते हैं। जिसे लोग वक्त रहते नहीं पहचान पाते।

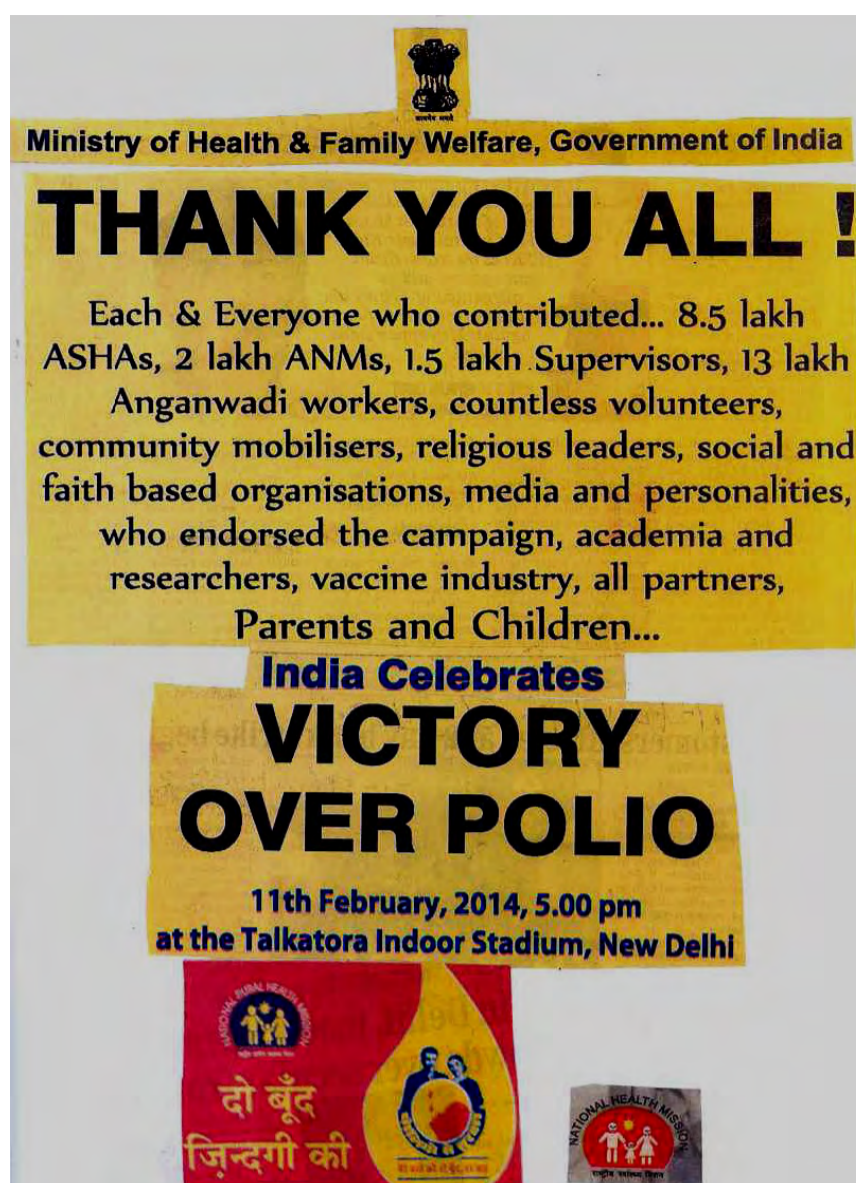
उन्होंने कहा कि लोगों के तनावग्रस्त कामकाज और तेजरफ्तार जीवनशैली से इस रोग की आशंका बढ़ी है। हमारी बदलती जीवनशैली में लोग शारीरिक श्रम कम करते हैं और मानसिक तनाव ज्यादा होता है। हृदय रोग से बचने के लिए संयमित भोजन, कम तेल और वसा वाला भोजन किया जाना चाहिए। मीठे का सेवन कम से कम हो। इससे सिर्फ हृदय रोग ही नहीं बल्कि इससे जुड़े अन्य रोग जैसे मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप जैसी बीमारियां भी नहीं होती हैं।

हरियाणा में राष्ट्रीय किशोर स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम शुरू

चंडीगढ़ . हरियाणा में आज राष्ट्रीय किशोर स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत हुई और इसके साथ ही यह अभियान शुरू करने वाला वह देश का पहला राज्य बन गया है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री राव नरेन्द्र सिंह ने कार्यक्रम के पहले चरण का शुभारम्भ किया जिसे राज्य के छह जिलों में अम्बाला, पंचकुला, करनाल, पलवल के हथौन ब्लॉक, यमुनानगर तथा मेवात के नूह ब्लॉक में शुरू किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने राज्य में मासिक धर्म स्वच्छता योजना का शुभारम्भ भी किया जिसे पहले चरण में सात जिलों जौंद, हिसार, सिरसा, भिवानी, सोनीपत, करनाल तथा मेवात में लागू किया जा रहा है। कार्यक्रम के लिए राज्य सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय हॉकी खिलाड़ी रानी रामपाल को ब्रांड अम्बेसडर बनाया है। राव ने कहा कि जिस प्रकार देश को पोलियो मुक्त बनाने में सफलता मिली है उसी प्रकार हरियाणा को अनौमिया मुक्त बनाना है।

Rajasthan Patrika (H),
February 11, 2014, P.14
(RKSK)

Dainik Jagran (H), February 11, 2014, P.14
(Infant Deaths)



The Statesman, February 11, 2014, P.2
(India Polio Free)

THE FOUNDATION FOR A FAMILY

The parent of a daughter has great awareness of the needs of adolescent girls. As a mother with an interest in public health, I spent a huge amount of time at my daughter's school, as well as in many other schools, teaching the girls about the importance of nutrition, physical fitness, learning first aid, and the importance of immunization.

Some of the progress was easily measured. I started a "No Polio Zone" in the early 1980s after I saw a girl paralysed waist downwards with polio. My friends from medical college joined me in street plays about the importance of vaccination. We found that mothers rarely completed the three doses needed for complete immunization of their children and so we donated a metre of a colourful striped cloth to children who completed all the doses of vaccines. Soon we found little girls who had completed the vaccinations wearing frocks of the same striped cloth—a simple but effective solution to the problem of non-compliance for vaccine dosages.

That experiment was to stay with me later as we formed several programmes on HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention of anaemia for girls, sound nutrition and physical exercise, especially in slums. While these programmes were in city schools, we also turned our attention to rural areas. The Piramal Foundation runs a programme on clean water (Sarvajal) and mobile health units (108 mobile service) in four states dealing particularly with maternal and infant mortality, and in the tribal areas with remote tele-medicine for women, as well as programmes for leadership in rural schools. The Piramal School for Education Leadership helps improve education in rural schools.

In both urban and rural areas, chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are striking early and the numbers are climbing. India has a double whammy with both infectious and chronic disease affecting young people. A helpline helps health workers deal with complex problems such as difficult pregnancies, and this service has already reached lakhs of consumers across three states. These were really basic health problems, but we tackled the sensitive issues, for example, the lack of knowledge of contraception.

COLUMN The helpline called i-canhelp by Piramal Healthcare was started with the help of a non-governmental organization (NGO) trained in medical advice and counselling, in particular about various methods of contraception. Unsurprisingly, the anonymity of speaking over the phone helped many young adolescent women get answers to questions they were afraid to ask family members. The lack of such education in schools meant that young women do not even have the basic knowledge for prevention of unwanted pregnancy. When this occurs, the services of a quack are enlisted, often with serious consequences to the girl's health. India has one of the highest occurrences of fatalities due to unsafe abortions.

Knowledge could make a difference between life and death. It is astonishing that ignorance about safe contraception is widely prevalent even in educated girls. The helpline has been an amazing success story and it is intended to start in other local languages. Knowledge of contraception is a fundamental right of every young woman so that her safety and health are assured. It is clear that a young adolescent woman is the foundation for a family, so her education and good health are the very foundation of a developed society. It is a shame that India still has the poorest record of maternal and infant mortality—major health indicators.

India is a signatory to the plan to improve this Millennium Development Goal. How can we make a quantum leap in improving these health indicators? Sharing success stories and applying technology in getting it to reach women across the country may be one solution. The work done by NGOs should be quickly replicated in far-flung areas as well. If the 50% of our population who are women can make a contribution to the economy, a leap in gross domestic product is likely, and their health, safety and well-being are critical for the nation.

Swati Piramal is vice-chairperson, Piramal Enterprises Ltd. She has worked in public health since 1992, focusing on the prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes, arthritis and heart disease. As director of the Piramal Foundation, she helps promote health in rural India with HMRI (a mobile health service) and women's empowerment projects, and supporting community education that creates young leaders. She serves on the dean's advisory board of both the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Business School.

Mint, February 17, 2014, P.10

Kids suffering brain stroke not rare: Study

Many Cases May Be Going Undiagnosed, Wrongly Treated

Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

Mumbai: Brain stroke in children is considered to be rare. But an ongoing study by a Mumbai hospital has revealed that it may not be that uncommon after all. Worse, many cases may be going undiagnosed or wrongly treated.

Around eight months ago, the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Andheri, initiated a study to track patients under 18 coming for stroke treatment. To their surprise, they clocked 16 patients—an average of two a month. Annually, 1.5 million adult Indians suffer strokes, but the number of kid sufferers is unknown. The study found none of the patients got diagnosed or received correct treatment within the first four hours, considered 'golden' for best treatment outcome, of suffering a stroke. A few were admitted to nursing homes and tertiary-care hospitals, which did not perform correct diagnoses. Most children got the appropriate treatment after 12-72 hours were lost.

"Even in a city like Mumbai, awareness about stroke in children remains shockingly low. Paediatricians and physicians often misread the signs for something else and children lose out on correct, timely treatment," said Dr Pradnya Gadgil, paediatric neurologist at KDAH. She said the aim of the study is to evolve a treatment protocol, as currently it is extrapolated from adult stroke management.

"For Indian children suffering strokes, a unique reason is trauma or a minor injury caused by, say, a fall. It is common in children below three here and is rarely seen anywhere else in the world," said Dr Vrajesh Udani, paediatric neurologist at PD Hinduja Hospital, Mahim, which treats two or three stroke cases among children a month. Udani said the incidence of paediatric stroke in India may be slightly higher than in the West.

Stroke occurs when blood supply to the brain is interrupted by a clot in an artery, or by the bursting of a blood vessel inside or outside the brain. Lack of oxygen (supplied by blood) even for a few seconds can disrupt the brain's functioning and permanently damage bodily movements the affected brain area controls.

The youngest child to get stroke was a one-year-old and the oldest was 17. The baby was diagnosed with an underlying cardiac condition, but the cause of stroke in the teen could not be established. In all, children have better chances of recovering from a stroke. The mortality rate among adult sufferers is 30%. "Even if mortality among child sufferers is low, morbidity (the number of people who have a disease in a particular population) can be significantly high," said paediatric neurologist Dr Shekhar Patil, who consults with Jupiter Hospital, Thane.

In the KDAH study, out of the 16 children, four (25%) went home with longstanding neurological deficits.

STROKE IN PATIENTS UNDER 18

STUDY* FINDINGS

- 16 cases in 8 months
- Average | 2 per month
- Conclusion | Children are not immune to stroke, or brain attack
- Youngest patient | 1 year old
- Oldest | 17 years old

*Done by Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Andheri

TYPES

Ischemic | Caused by obstruction to blood flow in brain, responsible for majority of strokes in children

Hemorrhagic | Caused by bleeding in brain, seen more in adults

SYMPTOMS

Infants, toddlers | Non-specific: excessive crying, refusal to take food, focal seizures (often misinterpreted as shivering), persistent vomiting or lethargy

Children over 5 | Limping, decreased speech, decreased use of one hand, 'funny' feeling on one side of body. Symptoms often tend to get attributed to fall or injury

Children over 10 | Inability to move one side of body, severe headache, speaking difficulty, slurry speech

STUDY'S AIM

To evolve protocol to treat stroke in children. At present, treatments are targeted mostly at adults

WHAT IS STROKE

Stroke occurs when blood clot blocks artery (blood vessel carrying blood from heart to body) or blood vessel breaks, interrupting blood flow to brain

Brain cells start dying due to lack of blood, and body movements controlled by that part of brain get affected

Cause remains unknown in more than third of paediatric stroke cases

Incidence of paediatric stroke in west is 2.5-13 per 100,000

Strokes are slightly more common in children under two compared to rest of paediatric population

No population-based data about incidence of stroke in India's paediatric population

For Indian children suffering strokes, a unique reason is trauma caused by, say, a fall. It is common in children below three here and rarely seen anywhere else

Dr Vrajesh Udani | PD HINDUJA HOSPITAL

RISK FACTORS

Clot in artery (rarely in veins), injury, malformations or inflammation in artery

Clots can arise in heart of children with congenital heart disease

Abnormal blood clotting due to genetic mutation

Malformed arteries or veins: can affect blood supply and cause stroke

Children with sickle-cell disease (an inherited disorder where red blood cells take abnormal shape) are highly vulnerable

CHALLENGES

Recognizing nonspecific symptoms

Treatment has to be initiated urgently to minimize brain injury

If prompt treatment is not initiated, stroke can leave one with longstanding neurological deficits

Most serious after-effects, though rare,

HOW CASES WERE REPORTED

Patients came to emergency department of Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Andheri, with signs of acute neurological symptoms

These were patients in whom, after admission to a medical facility, stroke wasn't suspected or diagnosed within first four hours, considered 'golden period' for best treatment outcome.

Some remained undiagnosed even after 24 hours of admission

Causes were mix of artery-vein malfunction, congenital cardiac condition, arterial tear caused by trauma such as fall from height, and inflammation of brain artery

4 patients had residual neurological deficit, including one-sided weakness, loss of walking ability, loss of fine motor ability and facial asymmetry. In 3 patients, cause of stroke could not be determined

include permanent loss of limb movement in one or both sides, epilepsy, seizures, cerebral palsy

Treatment involves long-term neurological rehabilitation

No clear treatment protocols for paediatric stroke exists

Recurrence is 15%, especially in children prone to blood clotting

Gadgil said two children had weakness in one side of the body and had difficulty with

walking, while the others had facial drooping, loss of movement in hands and palms, and

inability to perform motor tasks like buttoning a shirt. "These problems can be re-

solved with neuro rehabilitation. Children have brains like plastic, easy to mould."

The Times of India, February 11, 2014, P.19
(Brain Stroke-Children)

2.3 Nutrition/Malnutrition/ Dietary Patterns (Ready To Eat/Malnutrition Campaign)



Jansatta (H), February 17, 2014, P.9
(Ready To Eat)



Rajasthan Patrika (H),
February 27, 2014, P.9

2.4 Women Health/Reproductive Health (HIV-Mother to Child/Breast Cancer/HIV Salvage Therapy)

Option B Plus to cut risk of perinatal HIV transmission

Vinaya Deshpande

MUMBAI: To reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, three southern States and Maharashtra have adopted a new drug regimen as part of the National AIDS Control Programme.

The new Option B Plus brings down transmission levels from 30 per cent to just two per cent, the World Health Organisation says. Other advantages are the mother need not compulsorily undergo a C-section and she can breastfeed the baby without fear of transmitting the virus.

The Union government last week announced implementation of Option B Plus in India under the fourth phase of the AIDS control programme. States other than Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have yet to launch it because of inadequate drug stocks and lack of training of the implementation personnel.

"Earlier, HIV-positive mothers had to undergo C-section to avoid transmitting the virus. With this drug regimen, they have the option of a normal delivery. Since the infant is also put on medication, the mother can breastfeed it without fear," Asha Hegde, Joint Director, Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society, said.

Under Option B Plus, all HIV-positive pregnant women will be put on lifelong anti-retroviral therapy. Previously, the therapy was discontinued once the woman stopped nursing, resulting in immunity to the drug, Dr. Hegde said.

SAFE AT BIRTH NEW WHO-APPROVED DRUG REGIMEN TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE HIV TRANSMISSION FROM MOTHER TO CHILD

WHAT OPTION B+ IS ALL ABOUT	WITH THIS TREATMENT, HIV-POSITIVE MOTHERS CAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV-positive woman is put on lifelong triple drugs administered as one pill a day Newborn is given Nevirapine for six weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a natural delivery Breastfeed without fear of infecting infant Have later pregnancies protected from risk of transmission

OPTION IN ACTION

1 Goal of Option B+ is to attain HIV-free generation of children	2 To achieve target, officials say HIV test should be essential service
3 The treatment, based of WHO 2010 guidelines, will be applicable to both public and private health settings	4 Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have adopted the new regimen

Without medical intervention, the rate of parent-to-child transmission is 30-40%. Single dose of Nevirapine brought it down to 10-12% in Maharashtra. Under Option B+, the rate has dropped to 2-5% among breastfed babies.

- ASHA HEGDE, JOINT DIRECTOR, MAHARASHTRA STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

The Hindu, February 20, 2014, P.11
(HIV-Mother to Child)

India launches HIV salvage therapy

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday launched third-line drug therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS and extended free anti-retroviral therapy (ART) to more of them by revising the eligibility norm.

The third-line therapy, sometimes called salvage or rescue therapy, is prescribed for people who have limited drug options left – after the failure of at least two drug regimens and with evidence of HIV resistance to at least one drug in each line or the latter cause alone. The highly expensive therapy will be provided free.

Announcing these measures at the launch of the National AIDS Control Programme Phase IV (2012-2017) here, Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said the third-line therapy would enhance longevity and improve the quality of life of patients.

For receiving free ART, the minimum CD4-count limit had been reduced from 500 to 350. The count is a measure of the viral load.

Bill in Rajya Sabha

Meanwhile, the government tabled the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014, in the Rajya Sabha. It seeks to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and protect the human rights of people living with it.

At present, India is estimated to have 2.39 million people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Bill seeks to prohibit any kind of discrimination against the infected person – for instance, denial or termination of employment or occupation, unfair treatment, denial of access to any sector and forcible HIV testing.

The Hindu, February 13, 2014, P.13
(HIV Salvage Therapy)

LIFESTYLE ACCOUNTS AS THE MAIN CULPRIT

Breast cancer on the rise among young women

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 8 February

SORRY STATE

Breast cancer is now the most common cancer in most cities in India

An increasing number of younger women in India have become susceptible to breast cancer, according to medical experts who are blaming it on changing lifestyles.

"We come across girls as young as 18 with breast cancer. Due to urbanisation, the lifestyle of people has changed by 180 degrees and the effect is visible. While the normal age of contracting breast cancer was anywhere between 45 and 55 years a decade ago, it has become 35-45 years," said Dr NK Pandey, cancer surgeon and managing director of Asian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS). Dr Pandey, who has been selected for the Padma awards this year for his contribution in medicine, said: "Breast cancer is now the most common cancer in most cities in India, and the second most common cancer in the rural areas." In India, breast cancer accounts for 25 to 32 per cent of all women-related cancers in all these cities, he added.

This implies, practically, one fourth (or even approaching one thirds) of all female cancer cases are breast cancers. In India, the average age of developing breast cancer has undergone a significant shift over the last few decades. An analysis of cancer rates between 1982 and 2005, as conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research, showed that 10 out of every 100,000 women living in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bangalore were diagnosed with breast cancer about 10 years ago, compared with 23 women per every 100,000 today.

According to a report, published in *The Lancet*, by 2020, 70 per cent of those suffering from cancer worldwide will be located in developing countries, with a fifth located in India.

Another recent global study, commissioned by GE Healthcare, estimated that by 2030, the incidence of new cases of breast cancer in India will increase from today's figure of 115,000 to around 200,000 per year.

Currently, 40.4 per cent of India's population is between the ages of 25 and 54 with nearly 30 per cent younger than 14 years. Given the existing trends in Indian society, girls within this younger age range will become prime candidates for developing breast cancer by 2030.

"Breast cancer can also be termed as a lifestyle disease, as late marriage, fewer children and declining trend of breast feeding are some causative factors, essentially due to urbanisation," said Dr Anita Kant, breast cancer expert at AIMS. "Obesity, yet another lifestyle disease, is another cause," she added.

According to Dr Pandey, "Cultural taboos only exacerbate the problem. Not only are Indian women generally reluctant to discuss their bodies, but they also often delay visits to doctors – perhaps due to ignorance or poverty – when they find something wrong. Discomfort with the process of diagnosis and treatment is an additional concern."

Dr Kant said, "No one wants to talk about it. They're worried their children won't get married because of arranged marriages in this country. People think it's in the family. Children are taught to lie to their prospective marriage partners."

- 1 In India, breast cancer accounts for 25 to 32 per cent of all women-related cancers**
- 2 This implies, practically, one fourth of all female cancer cases are breast cancers**
- 3 Late marriage, fewer children & declining trend of breast feeding are some causes**

The Statesman, February 4, 2014, P.5
(Breast Cancer)

2.5 Health and Nutrition -other issues (ART-HIV+ Pregnant Women/Helpline-Pulse Polio/ Nutritional Centres/ Campaign-One Goal/ Wonder Work-Free Surgeries/ Mother and Child Tracking Facility Centre/MCTFC)

भारत ने मनाया पोलियो पर जीत का जोरदार जश्न

■ वरिष्ठ संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

भारत ने मंगलवार को पोलियो पर जीत का जश्न मनाया। इस मौके पर राजधानी के तालकटोरा स्टेडियम में हुए समारोह में राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जी, प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह, राष्ट्रीय सलाहकार परिषद की चेयरपर्सन सोनिया गांधी, केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री गुलाम नबी आजाद, लोकसभा में विपक्ष की नेता सुषमा स्वराज और विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन की डायरेक्टर जनरल मार्गरेट चान के अलावा पोलियो के खिलाफ जंग में अहम भूमिका निभाने वाले वॉलंटियर्स और कई प्रमुख लोगों ने शिरकत की। इसी 11 जनवरी को भारत ने पोलियो फ्री देश बनने का गौरव हासिल किया। इससे पहले 11 जनवरी 2011 को पोलियो का आखिरी केस पश्चिम बंगाल के वर्धमान जिले में सामने आया था। इस मौके पर वक्ताओं ने पोलियो के खिलाफ जारी जंग में किसी भी तरह की ढिलाई न आने देने की अपील की। उनका कहना था कि भारत ने कड़ी मेहनत और समर्पण के बाद यह मुकाम हासिल किया है।



11 जनवरी को पोलियो मुक्त बना था देश

अब दुनिया के तीन देशों- पाकिस्तान, अफगानिस्तान और नाइजीरिया में ही पोलियो के केस सामने आ रहे हैं। हमारे देश में भी हर साल पोलियो के हजारों नए केस सामने आते थे। बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश इस मामले में सबसे आगे थे। 2009 में देश में पोलियो के 741 नए केस सामने आए थे। यह

मुहिम से जुड़ी कई नामी हस्तियां

पोलियो के खिलाफ शुरु की गई मुहिम में अमिताभ बच्चन, सचिन तेंडुलकर, रवि शास्त्री और फारूख शेख के साथ कई सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं ने शिरकत की थी। अमिताभ के नारे 'दो बूंद जिंदगी की' ने देश के करोड़ों लोगों को पोलियो के खिलाफ एकजुट किया था। इस मुहिम में उन 25 लाख कार्यकर्ताओं का बहुत बड़ा योगदान था, जिन्होंने सभी दिक्कतों का मुकाबला करते हुए घर-घर जाकर बच्चों को पोलियो की दवा पिलाई थी।

पूरी दुनिया में उस साल सामने आए पोलियो के मामलों के आधे थे। इसके अगले साल यह संख्या 49 रह गई थी और फिर 2011 में भारत का नाम पोलियो प्रभावित देशों की लिस्ट से हटा दिया गया।

Nav Bharat Times (H), February 12, 2014, P.16

कुपोषित बच्चों के लिए सस्ता 'रेडी टू ईट पेस्ट' तैयार

कोलकाता (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के फूड इंजीनियर्स ने कुपोषित बच्चों के लिए कम कीमत पर खाने के लिए तैयार पेस्ट (रेडी टू ईट पेस्ट) विकसित किया है। आईआईटी शोधकर्ताओं के चार सदस्यों के दल ने अपनी फूड केमिस्ट्री और टेक्नोलॉजी लैब में भोजन का फार्मूला तैयार किया। इसका इस्तेमाल कुपोषित बच्चों के पोषण प्रबंधन में मेडिकल न्यूट्रिशन थेरेपी के तौर पर किया जा सकता है।

आईआईटी प्रोफेसर डा. एसएन मिश्रा ने बताया कि यह खाने के लिए तैयार भोज्य पेस्ट है और इसको पाउच में बेचा जा सकता है। हमने मूंगफली, आलू और चना आधारित पांच तरह के भोज्य फार्मूले तैयार किए हैं। ये कुपोषित बच्चों की पोषक तत्वों की जरूरतों और विभिन्न स्वादों के अनुसार हैं। साथ ही ये आसानी से पचने योग्य भी हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि इसमें सभी विटामिन, खनिज, प्रोटीन और पोषक तत्व शामिल हैं, जो कि कुपोषित बच्चों के लिए जरूरी है। एजेंसी

Amar Ujala (H), February 17, 2014, P.10

गर्भ में शिशु को तीन दवाएं बचाएंगी एड्स संक्रमण से

रणविजय सिंह, नई दिल्ली

एचआईवी संक्रमित गर्भवती महिलाओं के बच्चों को एड्स से बचाने के लिए दी जा रही सिंगल डोज दवा 50 फीसद मामलों में ही कारगर हो रही है। ऐसे में नाको के निर्देश पर इस माह से सभी अस्पतालों में सिंगल डोज दवा की जगह तीन दवाएं दी जाएंगी, जिसके सौ फीसद कारगर होने का दावा किया जा रहा है। नाको ने दिल्ली राज्य एड्स कंट्रोल सोसायटी को अस्पतालों में लागू करने का निर्देश जारी किया है। डॉक्टरों व कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जा रहा है। अब तक एचआईवी

इस महीने से अभियान बी प्लस कार्यक्रम अस्पतालों में लागू किया जाएगा। इसके तहत एचआईवी पॉजिटिव पाए जाने पर गर्भवती महिलाओं को शुरुआत से ही तीन दवाएं (एआरटी) दी जाएंगी जो गर्भ में एल रहें बच्चों को संक्रमण से बचाने में सौ फीसद कारगर होंगी।

-डॉ. एके गुप्ता, अतिरिक्त परियोजना निदेशक, दिल्ली राज्य एड्स कंट्रोल सोसायटी

पॉजिटिव गर्भवती महिलाओं में संक्रमण निरोधी कोशिकाओं (सीडी 4) की संख्या 350 से कम हो, तभी एआरटी शुरू की जाती है।

Dainik Jagran (H), February 3, 2014, P.1

(ART-HIV+ Pregnant Women)

पल्स पोलियो अभियान के लिए हेल्पलाइन

गुड़गांव, जिले में 23 से 26 फरवरी तक चलने वाले पल्स पोलियो अभियान का बेहतर प्रचार-प्रसार करने व जन-जन तक यह संदेश पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से अतिरिक्त उपयुक्त पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चौहान ने अधिकारियों को बैठक ली व उन्हें आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश दिए। अधिकतम अधिक प्रभावों बनाने के लिए हेल्पलाइन नम्बर 9717559006, 9416200109 व 0124-2322412 की शुरुआत की जा रही है जिस पर फोन करके लोग अपने बच्चों को पोलियोरोधी दवा पिलवाने के लिए संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

Rajasthan Patrika (H), February 19, 2014, P.12

Seven yrs on, 'effective' nutritional centres still a far cry

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Set up in 2007, the 763 Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres across the country with an aim to provide essential services to fight malnourishment among children under five are yet to go a long way in making their impact. Data speaks just 35,000 out of around 1.28 lakh severe acute malnutrition (SAM) children admitted across the centres were discharged, ie declared healthy, in 2012-13, according to the figures available from the Union Health Ministry.

In other words, the other 65,000 malnourished kids continued to struggle with their life mostly because of lack of trained healthcare professionals, guided supervision and basic amenities like clean water, cooking equipment, counselling kits, etc in many Centres.

Thus, lakhs of children could not avail such facilities. According to an estimate, there are around 81 lakhs estimated severe acute malnutrition (SAM) children under five.

Similarly, in the first half of 2013-14, 7,3254 SAM children were admitted, says the statistics.

The NRCs have been set up by the State Government's health departments in collaboration with the Centre since 2007 to treat cases of SAM through medical and nutritional interventions.

However, the data shows that not much attention has been paid to ensure that number of NRCs are increased to reach out to the needy or they are well-equipped to deal the problem that kills/maims million of children every year in the country.

For instance, in Bihar, there are just 38 NRCs, whereas it has 12.3 lakh SAM children. Uttar Pradesh has 22 Centres for around similar number of intended beneficiaries. In 2012-13, the two bigger States admitted 17,769 kids (Bihar) and 7,952 (Uttar Pradesh).

The performance of States like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,

Gujarat and Jharkhand too has not been encouraging.

"Malnourished children under the age of five years identified from health facilities and Aanganwadi workers are referred to NRCs," a senior official from the Ministry said admitting that a lot was yet to be done to cover maximum number of beneficiaries.

His concerns have been reflected in a study published in last year's September edition of Indian Pediatrics on the functioning of 12 NRCs in Uttar Pradesh. "The study majorly reflects the status of most of the Centres in the country," the official said.

The Pioneer, February 2, 2014, P.5
(Nutritional Centres)

कुपोषण को टक्कर देगा 'वन गोल' अभियान

जागरण संवाददाता, पूर्वी दिल्ली : मयूर विहार स्थित होटल होली डे इन में बुधवार को 'वन गोल' अभियान का शुभारंभ किया गया। इस अवसर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय ख्याति प्राप्त फुटबाल खिलाड़ी बाइचुंग भूटिया और भारतीय फुटबाल टीम के पूर्व उप कप्तान रनेडी सिंह ने शिरकत की। बाइचुंग भूटिया इस अभियान के ब्रांड एंबेसडर भी हैं। इस अवसर पर फ्यूएलिंग एशियाज फुटबॉलर्स फॉर द फ्यूचर रिपोर्ट भी जारी किया गया।

वर्ल्ड विजन, एशियन फुटबाल कन्फेडरेशन (एएफसी), रॉयल डीएसएम, ग्लोबल एलायंस फॉर इंफ्लूड न्यूट्रीशन (जीएआईएन) की भागीदारी से 'वन गोल' अभियान का शुभारंभ किया गया। इस अवसर पर भूटिया ने कहा कि फुटबाल खिलाड़ी होने के नाते मैं छोटी उम्र से ही अच्छे पोषण के महत्व को बखूबी समझता हूँ। उन्होंने कहा कि इस अभियान से जुड़कर गर्व का अहसास हो रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह अभियान बच्चों के पोषण की वकालत करता है। वहीं भारतीय फुटबाल टीम के पूर्व उपकप्तान रनेडी सिंह ने कैपेन बॉल पर हस्ताक्षर कर



'वन गोल अभियान' के शुभारंभ के दौरान फ्यूएलिंग एशियाज फुटबॉलर्स फॉर द फ्यूचर रिपोर्ट जारी करते हुए भारतीय फुटबाल खिलाड़ी व कैपेन एंबेसडर बाइचुंग भूटिया और भारतीय फुटबाल टीम के पूर्व उपकप्तान रनेडी सिंह व अन्य। जागरण

अभियान का शुभारंभ किया। इस दौरान सुधार कर सके।

फ्यूएलिंग एशियाज फुटबॉलर्स फॉर द फ्यूचर रिपोर्ट भी जारी की गई।

इस रिपोर्ट में कतर 2022 में आयोजित होने वाले फीफा वर्ल्ड कप को लेकर उत्साहपूर्ण चर्चा है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार जिन देशों में पोषण के अभाव और अधिकता का मामला मिला उन्हें रेड कार्ड दिए जा रहे हैं, ताकि वे पोषण नीति और व्यवहार के लिहाज से अपने खेल में

पोषण नीति व्यवहार के प्रति जो देश वचनबद्धता के मामले में अभी नए हैं उन्हें येलो कार्ड दिए जाते हैं। इस अवसर पर मैजिक बस इंडिया फाउंडेशन के सीईओ प्रतीक कुमार, गोल सोशल फ्रेंचाइजिंग के निदेशक ग्रेनवाइल हॉपकिंसन, पब्लिक एंगेजमेंट, वर्ल्ड विजन के प्रमुख वैलेटाइन डेविडार सहित काफी संख्या में लोग मौजूद रहे।

Dainik Jagran (H), February 13, 2014, P.II
(Campaign-One Goal)

US-based NGO to conduct 4,000 free surgeries

HT Correspondent

htreporter@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: WonderWork, an America-based NGO, which conducts free surgeries for severely burnt children and adults, cataract patients and children with club foot across 59 countries, will conduct 4000 surgeries in India in a month's time.

The NGO, in association with 26 hospitals across India, will conduct surgeries free of cost in 13 states. In Delhi, the organization is in touch with the doctors of St Stephen's Hospital,

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Lok Nayak Hospital and Dr Shroff Eye Hospital.

"We have chosen India as one of our major places for doing our work because there is lot of suffering in India as one-third of the total blind population in the world is in India. Moreover, there is phenomenal potential among doctors and surgeons in India and they come forward wholeheartedly with their support to us," said Brian Mullaney, co-founder of WonderWork. "Our funding comes from 100,000 donors in the USA."

Hindustan Times,

February 6, 2014, P.9

(Wonder Work-Free Surgeries)

Patients rejoice after govt issues new advisory for hospitals

FOR BETTER HEALTH

Immediate medical care must be provided, especially to victims of crimes, road accidents, acid attack, sexual assault or critical patients.

Free treatment to victims of sexual assault and acid attacks.

Emergency transfer of patients through CATS ambulances.

Charges levied for all services at the hospital are duly displayed at a conspicuous place in the hospital/nursing home.

Comfortable, hygienic and user friendly and adequate environment must be ensured.

Polite and professional behavior by all categories of healthcare workers towards patients and their attendants.

Negligence must be avoided and patient safety should be emphasized during treatment provided to the patients

Paid services, wherever deficient, would be qualified as deficient under Consumer

Protection Act.

Adequate fire safety measures in hospitals

Employees must be paid at a rate not less than the minimum rate of the wages fixed for that class of employees.

Safety of women at workplace and fair employment practices.

Refrain from compelling the patients/attendants to procure drugs from in-house pharmacy for treatment purposes

Encourage doctors to prescribe drugs with generic names.

Induction should be given to the doctors in respect of their medico-legal duty

Dignity of dead persons should be maintained under all circumstances

Bodies of the deceased persons should be handed over to the next of kin without delay and should not be held back under any circumstances or pretext

Hindustan Times, February 6, 2014, P.2

'मां और बच्चा ट्रेकिंग सुविधा केंद्र' का उद्घाटन

लोक.पं. ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री गुलाम नबी आजाद ने राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण संस्थान में 'मां और बच्चा ट्रेकिंग सुविधा केंद्र' का उद्घाटन किया। इस अवसर पर श्री आजाद ने कहा कि मां और बच्चा ट्रेकिंग प्रणाली की शुरुआत दिसंबर 2009 में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के अंतर्गत की गई थी। शुरुआत में मंत्रालय के परिसर से एक कॉल सेंटर चलाया जाता था।

लेकिन अब यह सुविधा केंद्र अधिक संख्या में गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं तक पहुंच सकेगा। इस व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत गर्भवती महिलाओं और पांच वर्ष तक के उम्र के बच्चों के बारे में जानकारी रखी जाती है। इसके अंतर्गत अब तक 10.5 करोड़ गर्भवती महिलाओं और बच्चों का पंजीकरण किया जा चुका है। इसका उद्देश्य प्रत्येक गर्भवती महिला को प्रसव पूर्व और बच्चों के जन्म के बाद पूर्ण और अच्छी स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सुविधा देना और प्रत्येक बच्चे को सभी टीके लगाने की सुविधा प्रदान करना है।

गर्भवती महिलाओं और बच्चों के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी वेब आधारित प्रणाली के जरिए रखी जाती है। गर्भवती महिलाओं और

बच्चों के माता-पिता को उन्हें मिलने वाली सेवाओं के बारे में नियमित एसएमएस भेजकर अवगत कराया जाता है। श्री आजाद ने बताया कि अकेले जनवरी 2014 में 71 लाख से अधिक एसएमएस भेजे जा चुके हैं। श्री आजाद ने कहा कि इस व्यवस्था से स्वास्थ्य योजनाओं और लाभार्थियों तक पहुंचने वाली सुविधाओं के बारे में राज्यों से बहुमूल्य आंकड़े एकत्र करने में मदद मिलेगी। इससे उन्हें बेहतर सुविधाएं प्रदान करने और उनका मूल्यांकन करने में मदद मिलेगी। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने इस सुविधा केंद्र का उद्घाटन करते समय इस सेवा के बारे में जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए कुछ लाभार्थियों से बात की। इस सेवा की निगरानी के अलावा इस व्यवस्था के तहत गर्भवती महिलाओं और छोटे बच्चों के माता-पिता को उनके मोबाइल पर जानकारी दी जाती है। अब तक इस कार्य के लिए 8.92 करोड़ लाभार्थियों के मोबाइल नंबर लिये जा चुके हैं।

इस सुविधा का इस्तेमाल इसके अलावा निम्नलिखित के लिए भी किया जाता है-

□ लाभार्थियों को गर्भावस्था के माह अथवा बच्चों की आयु के

अनुसार प्रासंगिक स्वास्थ्य संबंधी संदेश

□ जननीसुरक्षा योजना के लाभ गर्भवती महिला को हस्तांतरित करना जैसा कि अभी 121 प्रत्याक्ष लाभ हस्तांतरण वाले जिलों में किया जा रहा है

□ एएसएचए भुगतानों का सीधे उनके खातों में हस्तांतरण। इससे यह सुनिश्चित करने में मदद मिलेगी की मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ताओं को प्रोत्साहन राशि का समय पर और नियमित भुगतान हो रहा है

□ आवश्यकता के मुताबिक आईवीआर प्रणाली के जरिए मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता का प्रशिक्षण सुविधा केंद्र में 80 हेल्पडेस्क एजेंट होंगे। यह केंद्र सुबह नौ बजे से शाम पांच बजे तक काम करेंगे। एक नहीने के भीतर हर महीने करीब सात लाख कॉल की जाएंगी।

Lok Panchayat (H), February- March, 2014, P.7

(Mother and Child Tracking Facility Centre/MCTFC)

3. Women/Gender issues

3.1 Women Empowerment (Opportunities for Women Work/ SHGs)

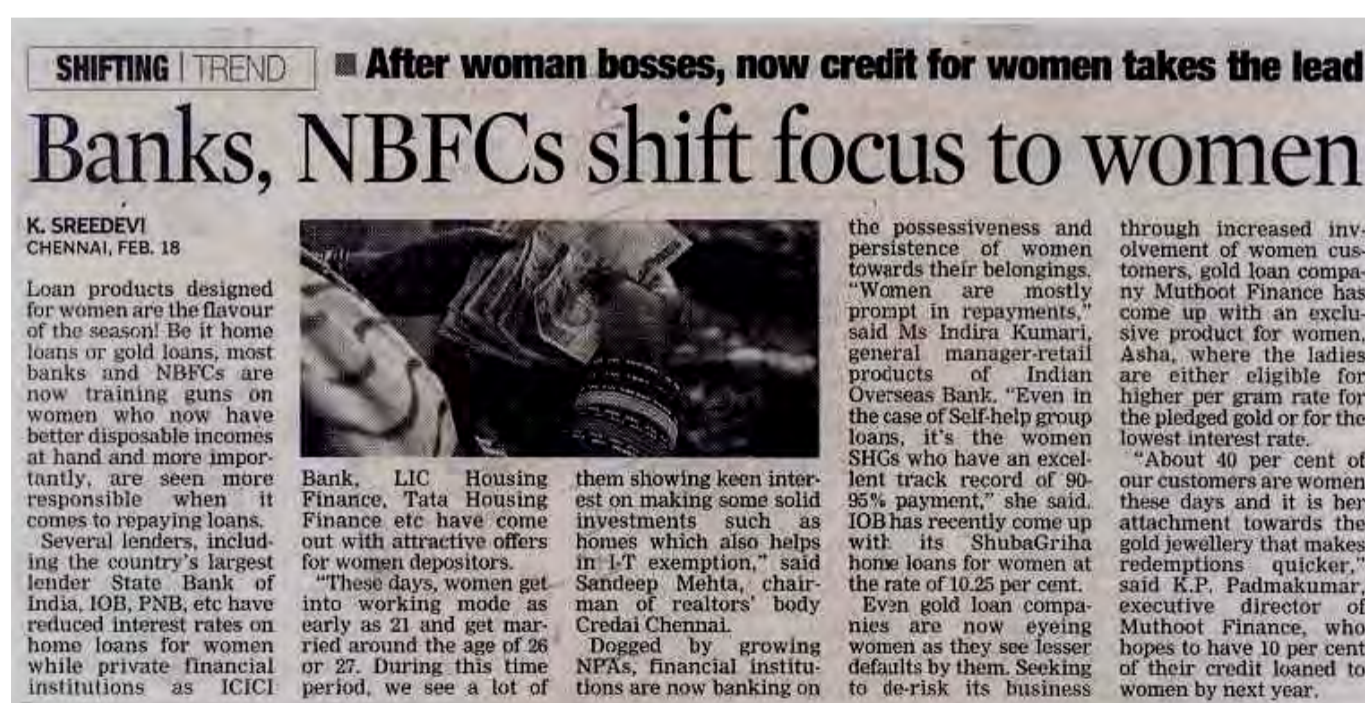


Punjab Kesari (H), February 5, 2014, P.3

(Opportunities for Women Work)



The Times of India, February 16, 2014, P.18



The Asian Age, February 19, 2014, P.16

महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों को 07 प्रतिशत पर कर्ज अनुदान

लोक. ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) को ऋण लेने के दौरान 07 प्रतिशत ब्याज पर आर्थिक सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की गरीब महिलाओं की आजीविका को बढ़ावा देने और उन्हें सशक्त बनाने के लिए ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा आजीविका-राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन (एनआरएलएम) एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। भारत सरकार ने मई 2013 में ऋण के लिए आर्थिक सहायता को मंजूरी दी थी और इसे एक अप्रैल 2013 से महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों द्वारा ऋण लेने के अनुकूल बनाया गया है।

नवम्बर 2013 में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक और नाबार्ड ने इसके संचालन के लिए दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए। इसके बाद इस योजना को



क्रियान्वित करने के लिए मंत्रालय ने वित्त मंत्रालय के समन्वय से इसकी सारी तैयारियां पूरी की। इस योजना को लागू करने के लिए सभी निजी क्षेत्र के बैंकों, आरआरबी और को-ऑपरेटिव बैंकों को निर्देश जारी किए गए।

तदनुसार, 01 फरवरी 2014 से, सभी बैंक (पीएसबी, आरआरबी, को-ऑपरेटिव बैंकों और निजी बैंकों) चुने हुए 150 पिछड़े जिलों के सभी महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह को 07 प्रतिशत ब्याज (03 लाख रूपए

तक के लोन के लिए) की दर से ऋण उपलब्ध कराएंगे। इन स्वयं सहायता समूह को पुनर्मुगतान पर 03 प्रतिशत की और आर्थिक सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी। इस प्रकार इस तरह के सभी ऋणों पर प्रभावी शुल्क केवल 04 प्रतिशत होगा। इसके अतिरिक्त सभी महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों को बकाया ऋण के लिए (01 अप्रैल 2013 से 03 लाख रूपए तक के लिए) पहली फरवरी से केवल 07 प्रतिशत ब्याज देना होगा। सहायता समूहों को 01 अप्रैल 2013 से 31 जनवरी 2014 की अवधि के लिए अंतरीय ब्याज राशि का भुगतान करना होगा। इस कार्यक्रम के तहत, 60-70 लाख स्वयं सहायता समूहों के जरिए, एनआरएलएम का देशभर में 2.5 लाख ग्राम पंचायतों की 07 करोड़ ग्रामीण गरीब घरेलू महिलाओं को फायदा पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य है।

Lok Panchayat (H), February- March, 2014, P.8
(SHGs)

महिलाओं को मिलेगा सात फीसदी ब्याज पर कर्ज

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

लोकसभा चुनाव से पहले लोकलुभावन कदम उठाते हुए केंद्र सरकार ने महिलाओं को सात प्रतिशत ब्याज दर पर कर्ज मुहैया कराने का ऐलान किया है। सस्ते कर्ज की यह सुविधा उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, झारखंड और उत्तराखंड सहित देश के चुनिंदा 150 जिलों में महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों को मिलेगी। फिलहाल, इन महिला समूहों को कर्ज के लिए 10 से 13 प्रतिशत के बीच ब्याज चुकाना पड़ता है।

केंद्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री जयराम रमेश ने सोमवार को इस योजना की घोषणा करते हुए कहा कि महिलाओं के लिए सस्ते कर्ज की यह सुविधा 150 जिलों में लागू होगी। इनके अलावा अन्य जिलों में अगर कोई महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह समय पर कर्ज अदा करता है तो उसे भी सरकार ब्याज दर में राहत देगी। रमेश ने कहा कि ऋण पर ब्याज दर में छूट की इस योजना पर करीब 1,400 करोड़

इन जिलों में मिलेगा लाभ

बिहार: अरवल, औरंगाबाद, जमुई, जहानाबाद, कैमूर मुंगेर, नवादा, रोहतास, प. वणारण, सीतामढ़ी, गया
झारखंड: बोकारो, चतरा, गढ़वा, गिरिडीह, गुमला, हजारीबाग, खुर्दी, कोडरमा, लातेहार, लोहरदगा, पश्चिमी सिंहभूमि, पलामू, पूर्वी सिंहभूमि, रामगढ़, रांची देहात,
उत्तर प्रदेश: चंदीनी, मिर्जापुर, सोनभद्र, बदायूं, हरदोई, इटावा, आजमगढ़, इलाहाबाद, अंबेडकरनगर, बहराइच, देवरिया, बांदा
उत्तराखंड: चमोली, बागेश्वर

रुपये खर्च आएगा। यह धनराशि सरकार राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन के तहत जारी करेगी। सस्ते कर्ज की यह योजना एक अप्रैल 2013 से लागू मानी जाएगी। इसका मतलब है कि अगर किसी महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह ने एक अप्रैल 2013 के बाद कर्ज लिया है तो उसे इसका लाभ मिलेगा।

Hindustan (H), February 4, 2014, P.15 (SHGs)

UNDERAGE BRIDES

Child marriages: untying the knot

mint SERIES-II

In at least six states—including Rajasthan, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar—more than half of all girls are married while legally still children

BY ASHWAQ MASOODI
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NEW DELHI

When her mother told her the bright, sparkly dresses and sandals lying on the table were hers, she did not know why she was suddenly given all these things, till she finally overheard her parents talk about her marriage. She kept crying thinking that she'd be sent off to a new house, away from her family. But what she didn't know was that she had to live with a man twice her height, sturdy, moustached (she stresses the word), and 20 years older.

Eight years later, the 19-year-old is a mother of two boys—eight and six. She still looks younger than her age. Her full moon face, the childish smile, and the chicken pox scars on her face defy her repeated attempts to look mature. She is one of over 24 million child brides in India, where about 40% of the world's 60 million child marriages take place, according to the National Family Health Survey.

India has the 14th highest rate of child marriage in the world, according to the International Center for Research on Women. Ethiopia stands at 18th. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women outlaw marriage under the age of 18. Despite these international legal conventions, the United Nations Population Fund estimates that between 2011 and 2020, more than 140 million girls in the world will be married before their 18th birthday, and almost 50% of these child brides will be in South Asia.

In at least six states in India—including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar—more than half of all girls are married while legally still children. According to the latest district-level household and facility survey (DLHS), conducted for the health ministry, the worst state for child marriage is Bihar, where nearly 70% of women in their early twenties reported having been married by the age of 18; the best is Himachal Pradesh at 9%.

Gender inequality, poverty, lack of education, safety concerns about girl children, and control over sexuality are the prevalent reasons for the increase. Coming from a village dramatically increases a girl's chances of early marriage. According to DLHS data, around 48% of married women in the 20-24 year age group got married before 18 in rural areas, compared with 29% in urban areas.

Stopping child marriages while they are happening is not as easy as it sounds, mostly because the marriage is arranged by parents and their reasoning for the decision is deeply etched in several generations.

"It's not simple at all. When we try stopping the marriage, people hurl cuss words at you and most likely beat you up no matter which gender you belong to," says Nazima Khan, a social activist working with Nav Srishti, an NGO for child rights and women empowerment, supported by non-profit Child Rights and You.

The 19-year-old was the eldest and the most dutiful of all the siblings in her family living in west Delhi. Every time her baby brother cried, or when his clothes needed to be washed, or when her mother couldn't cook, she was called. She went to school once in a while, was mostly late and usually received beatings from the teacher. "I never got any time to play or even to go to school," she says, adding how much she still wants to study.

On the day of her marriage, she was made to sit next to her husband. "I thought we were all guests at a function and my husband was also one of the guests. My sister-in-law asked me to let my husband do whatever he wanted to without resisting," she says.

Her in-laws had promised that the *gauna* (the ceremony that marks physically transferring the bride from her maternal home to her husband's house) would take place only after she attained puberty. But after the marriage was solemnized, the in-laws backtracked and forcibly took the bride. Within a year and a half she was pregnant. She kept complaining of intermittent stomach ache and would run to her mother-in-law every time she noticed her belly bloating. She writhed on the floor like a half-crushed insect. "I didn't know what was happening to me till I gave birth to my first son. After that I knew I had to bear this pain and not shout...just like everyone else," she says.

According to the 2001 census, 300,000 girls under the age of 15 had already given birth to one or two children.

Last year, India refused to co-sponsor the first ever UN Human Rights Council resolution against the practice. The resolution was co-sponsored by 107 other countries. In a country where every second bride is a child, around 400 people were arrested for child marriage in 2012 mostly because of the ineffective law.

The Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA), or the Sarda Act, was first introduced in India in 1929. The minimum legal age for marriage was 15 years for girls and 18 for boys. In 1978, after several amendments, the minimum legal age of marriage was raised to 18 for females and 21 for males. The law was replaced by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006. And unlike the CMRA, where punishment was negligible for marrying a minor, the PCMA provides for rigorous imprisonment of up to two years or with a fine up to ₹1 lakh or both.

Also, the ambit of people who could be prosecuted for the crime has been widened. Anyone who is aware of any child marriage about to happen or that has already happened has to report it. The person can be made liable under the present law and also the Indian penal code for abetting the offence, promoting, permitting, participating in a child marriage or failing to prevent it. All those involved in the commissioning of the marriage can be prosecuted under the law if it is found out before the marriage is solemnized. Under the law, the marriage performed is voidable or can be repudiated. However, this can happen only if the girls challenge their marriage within a certain period of time following the marriage or before consummation of marriage or birth of a child. The permissible age of marriage under certain personal laws in India is lower than the general law.

Advocate Aparna Bhatt says even though there are positives to the PCMA, the enforceability isn't much on the ground. "This law doesn't override the personal law. And hence it could not reach the goal it had expected to reach," says Bhatt.

The 19-year-old got divorced three years back. Her family is planning to marry her off again even though she doesn't want to marry. "Even they will beat me. I want to study. I don't want to marry again," she says.

When asked if she knows the legal age of marriage in India, the teenager's mother says, "I don't even know how to count the days of a week. Do you expect me to know how old my daughter is or what the law of the land is?"

This is the second in a five-part series.

About 40% of the world's 60 million child marriages take place in India

Mint, February 24, 2014, P.8
(Child Marriage)

3.3 Violence and Crime against Women (Sexual Harassment/ Sexual Exploitation-Jarawas/ Rape Cases/ Domestic Abuse/ Women Harassment/ Sexual Abuse)



Hindustan (H), February 13, 2014, P.15
(Sexual Harassment)



Hindustan (H), February 9, 2014, P.3



The Times of India, February 28, 2014, P.1+19



'Jarawas are sexually exploited by poachers'



SOFT TARGETS

Arun Janardhanan | TNN

Chennai: Earlier, tourists made them dance and pose for food; now poachers sexually assault them. Jarawas, whose population adds up to 420 in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are being exploited by poachers who have intro-

duced alcohol and ganja into the reserve forests, the Andaman Chronicle has reported.

A Jarawa man told the paper—which it shared with The Guardian, London—that their women and girls are being forced to have sex with poachers and fishermen. An unidentified Jarawa man said poachers have established a barter system with a section of the community. They offer them alcohol and marijuana to poach resources in the tribal territories and sexually abuse the women and girls.

In one of the audio clips, the Jarawa man, speaking in Hindi, says the poachers regularly visit the reserve forest and under the influence of alcohol and ganja, they "chase and hurt the girls and sleep with them in the Jarawa Chadda (hut)." Andaman Chronicle said most of the Jarawas being sexually exploited by outsiders are either orphans or widows.

The Times of India, February 4, 2014, P.11
(Sexual Exploitation-Jarawas)

Tougher rape law leading to increase in false cases?

Legal Experts Point To Growing Misuse

Sana Shakil | TNN

New Delhi: Fears have been expressed that strengthening of the law against sexual offenses after the Nirbhaya case has also led to an increase in false cases. Now, there's some evidence to support this claim. Statistics on the disposal of rape cases in

Delhi's trial courts show a sharp increase in acquittals after the infamous December 16, 2012, gang-rape. While in 2012, the acquittal rate in rape cases was 46%, in the first eight months of 2013 (for which exact figures are available) it shot up to 75%. Sources said acquittals remain high this

ACQUITTALS ON THE RISE

► In 2012, Delhi's trial courts disposed of 661 rape cases. In 304, the accused were acquitted

ACQUITTAL RATE

46%

► In 2013, data is available till August. It shows 237 acquittals out of 318 cases

75%



Rate of acquittals also high so far this year at 70%

COMMON REASONS FOR FILING FALSE RAPE CHARGES

- Unkept promise of marriage
- Soured relationship
- Recovery of dues from accused & other disputes
- Extra-marital affairs

year as well, accounting for around 70% of the cases.

Legal experts say the high acquittal rates are because of a spurt in the number of false rape cases being filed. The observations of judges in acquittal cases also bear this out.

"This is an unfortunate trend. In many cases, women

come up with the plea that they had registered the case out of anger and due to misunderstanding," said additional public prosecutor A T Ansari, one of the main prosecutors in the Nirbhaya case. Experts feel the amended law is "widely-worded" and "ambiguous" in parts and lends itself to misuse.

'Sadly new law being misused'

► Continued from P1

A senior woman lawyer, who did not wish to be named, said, "It's sad but true. Registration of false cases is rampant and hence, the alarming acquittal rate. The new law is being misused because of the widened definition of rape."

"In around 90% of acquittal cases, the victim turns hostile. Mostly, it turns out to be a case of a relationship gone bad. The sex is consensual but the victim claims that the consent was given on account of promise of marriage," said a senior public prosecutor on condition of anonymity.

Other reasons for register-

ing false cases seem to range from extortion, recovery of dues, property disputes and extra-marital affairs.

Laws dealing with sexual offences against women were strengthened post Nirbhaya incident to provide speedy justice and greater security to women. Ironically, the conviction rates were higher when the laws were less stern.

Explaining how the new laws were more vulnerable to misuse, a former senior prosecutor said the consent of the victim, which had earlier been a debatable issue among judges, was settled with a clarification in Section 375 of IPC. It specified that absence of physi-

cal resistance cannot be construed as consent. "I feel there should have been an exception to the false promise of marriage concept because that is the excuse which is mostly taken up by women to register false cases even though the sex was consensual," the senior lawyer said.

Though there is a provision to prosecute people for perjury if they lie in court, its rarely exercised to prosecute women in these false cases. "The courts generally don't use this discretion because they don't want genuine victims to be wary of approaching courts for justice," said senior advocate Aman Lekhi.

The Times of India, February 22, 2014, P.1+4
(Rape Cases)

95 फीसदी औरतें खुद को असुरक्षित महसूस करती हैं

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

हाईकोर्ट ने राजधानी में महिलाओं के खिलाफ बढ़ते अपराध पर लगाम लगाने के लिए समुचित कदम नहीं उठाने पर केंद्र सरकार को आड़े हाथों लिया है। हाईकोर्ट ने नाराजगी जाहिर करते हुए कहा कि, सरकार आती-जाती है लेकिन दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि देश की राजधानी में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के सवाल पर आज प्रश्न चिह्न लगा हुआ है।

इसके साथ ही हाईकोर्ट ने केंद्र और दिल्ली सरकार से राजधानी में क्राइम मैपिंग यानी किस इलाके में किस प्रकार के अपराध हो रहे हैं और इसके कारण क्या है, यह पता लगाने का निर्देश दिया। एक्टिंग चीफ जस्टिस बी. अहमद और जस्टिस सिद्धार्थ मृदुल की पीठ ने यह आदेश सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता नंदिता धर के अधिवक्ता गौरव बंसल द्वारा दाखिल जनहित याचिका पर दिया है।

याचिका में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था पर सवाल उठाते हुए कहा है कि राजधानी में 95 फीसदी महिलाएं सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर खुद को असुरक्षित महसूस करती हैं। इतना ही नहीं, दिल्ली की 73 फीसदी महिलाएं विभिन्न तरीके के यौन हिंसा की शिकार हो रही हैं। यह याचिका दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा गैर सरकारी संगठन के साथ मिलकर कराए गए सर्वे के आधार पर ही दाखिल की गई है।

पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल हो अध्याय: हाईकोर्ट ने केंद्र और दिल्ली सरकार से लैंगिक भेदभाव दूर करने के लिए स्कूल और कॉलेज के पाठ्यक्रम में एक अध्याय शामिल करने पर विचार करने

क्या कहती है सर्वे रिपोर्ट

- तीन चौथाई यानी 73 फीसदी दिल्ली की महिलाएं विभिन्न तरह की यौन हिंसा की शिकार होती हैं
- 80 फीसदी महिलाएं मानती हैं कि दिल्ली की गलियां सबसे असुरक्षित हैं। मार्केट, पार्क, बस स्टॉप भी इसी श्रेणी में हैं
- अघेरा होने के बाद 63 फीसदी महिलाओं को अकेली घर से निकलने में लगता है डर
- 20 फीसदी महिलाएं अघेरा होने पर किसी भी कीमत पर घर से बाहर अकेली नहीं निकलती हैं

ये भी है यौन हिंसा

- 52 फीसदी लोग भड़े जोक, सीटी बजाना, भड़े इशारे, फटियां कसा करते हैं
- 20 फीसदी मामलों में महिलाओं के शरीर से किसी न किसी प्रकार स्पर्श किया गया
- 10 फीसदी महिलाओं को घूरा जाता है
- पुरुष यौन हिंसा के मामले में रहते हैं तमाशाबीन
- 78 पुरुष यौन हिंसा होते देखते हैं। लेकिन 15 फीसदी ही बग़व में आगे आते हैं

कहां होती है छेड़छाड़

57.3 प्रतिशत छेड़छाड़ सबकों पर होती है	51.15 प्रतिशत छेड़छाड़ मॉल में की जाती है
55.2 प्रतिशत छेड़छाड़ बस स्टॉप पर की जाती है	46.1 प्रतिशत छेड़छाड़ पार्क में की जाती है

हाईकोर्ट ने मांगा जवाब

हाईकोर्ट ने इस पर कहा कि दिल्ली पुलिस जब दिल्ली सरकार के नियंत्रण से बाहर है तो आखिर वह इस आदेश का पालन करेगा इसकी क्या जिम्मेदारी है। हाईकोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार से यह बताने के लिए कहा है कि उन्होंने इस बारे में समुचित कदम क्यों नहीं उठाया। इसके साथ ही महिलाओं के लिए जारी विशेष हेल्पलाइन का पर्याप्त प्रचार प्रसार नहीं करने पर भी हाईकोर्ट ने सरकार की खिचाई की है।

कई गुना हुई बढ़ोतरी

दिल्ली पुलिस के आंकड़ों के हिसाब से वर्ष 2013 में अब तक छेड़छाड़ की घटनाओं में 600 फीसदी और घूरना, फटियां कसने जैसे मामलों 783 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

का निर्देश दिया है। इसके साथ ही शैक्षणिक संस्थानों लोगों लैंगिक भेदभाव दूर करने के मकसद से जागरूकता लाने के लिए कार्यशाला आयोजित करने का निर्देश दिया है।

दिया गया है पर्याप्त आदेश: इससे पहले दिल्ली सरकार की ओर से अधिवक्ता शना अंसारी ने कहा कि सरकार ने सभी संबंधित विभागों को महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए पर्याप्त कदम उठाने का आदेश जारी किया है। इस पर हाईकोर्ट ने यह जानना चाहा कि इन दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन करने की जिम्मेदारी क्या है। इस पर उन्होंने जवाब दिया है कि यह दिल्ली पुलिस की जिम्मेदारी है।

Hindustan (H), February 20, 2014, P.2

Women want special officers to look into domestic abuse

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Representatives of Women's Commissions from across the country want specially trained officers to deal with cases of domestic violence.

"For the Domestic Violence Act, the district project officers are the protection officers. This is an additional responsibility. They have created the Act, but there is no system to tackle these cases. The government must appoint one special officer to tackle these cases. Every office must have a cell, an officer, and a system must be put in place," said Tripurana Venkatratnam, chairperson of the AP Women's Commission.

This and many other

Chairpersons from different commissions across the country said that the urban areas contributed more towards the steady increase in the crime rate. Dr Tomsula Ao of the Nagaland Women's Commission said, "Dowry deaths, witch hunting etc. are more prevalent in the urban areas of Nagaland than the rural areas." Agreeing with her, Shameem Firdous of the J&K Women Commission, said, "We get a lot of workplace sexual harassment complaints."

measures were discussed at a first-of-its-kind seminar of all Women's Commissions in the city on Thursday. "We need more fast track courts for a quicker justice delivery system for women's cases, with a maximum time frame of 90 days. There should be an increase in patrolling, public spaces must be made safer, police and judiciary must be sensitised about such cases, more women's police stations must be set up and more

women must be recruited in the police force. The NCW will send these recommendations to the government," she said.

Enforcing the Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act would reduce the number of cases of dowry harassment, it was felt.

Shameem Firdous, chairperson, J&K Women's Commission stressed on the need for special powers to address cases where Army personnel are the accused.

High Court asks cops to identify areas where women are harassed

Saibam Rocky Singh
rocky.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the police to conduct a 'crime mapping' exercise of areas where women are harassed in the Capital.

A division bench of acting chief justice BD Ahmed and justice Sidharth Mridul said it wanted to know whether the phenomenon of sexual aggression against women was a "social or a policing problem."

Stating that "rape was an aggravated form of eve teasing" the HC said the Delhi government could involve sociologists to study the reason behind such crimes.

"We have to see what is wrong with the people, and why are they indulging in such activities," the HC said adding that the government to consider if it could introduce lessons against

WE HAVE TO SEE WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE PEOPLE, AND WHY ARE THEY INDULGING IN SUCH ACTIVITIES. HOW MANY KNOW OF 181. NOT MANY WE ARE SURE. YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT KNOWN

DELHI HIGH COURT

harassment of women in education.

During the hearing, the government said it had in January last year introduced a three-digit emergency helpline number '181' for women in Delhi.

"Everyone knows about 100. How many know of 181. Not many we are sure. You have to make it known," the bench

remarked adding the women helpline number was of no use if it was not publicised properly.

The HC's remark came while hearing a PIL filed by advocate Gaurav Bansal, which cited surveys by independent organisations claiming a recent spurt in crime and sought directions for taking adequate steps to prevent it.

The PIL pointed out that the Delhi government failed to provide an atmosphere conducive to the growth of girl students and women here. "The trauma of eve-teasing is horrible and girls cannot tell their family so the petitioner seeks liberty of this court to invoke its jurisdiction," the PIL said.

The PIL also submitted a press release issued by Delhi Police in April last year which said molestation and eve-teasing incidents recorded 600% and 783.67% rise respectively in last few years.

Deccan Chronicle, February 1, 2014, P.2
(Domestic Abuse)

Hindustan Times, February 20, 2014, P.3
(Women Harassment)

A patriarchal society limits the role of a man

Instead of ascribing gender-specific roles to men and women, we must focus on a gender-neutral policy

anopaquevision

Sharif D Rangnekar

In India, rape and sexual harassment are often seen as a reflection of a society deeply ridden in patriarchy with the woman being abused and the man inflicting the abuse. Debates on this subject have pushed for change that would empower women and put a sensitive system in place that addresses such crimes and works towards a change in society. But is this enough?

A patriarchal society does not merely make a woman subordinate. It limits the role of a man. Sexual abuse is not only inflicted on women but also on men and often by men themselves. While there is no doubt that women need to be protected from abusive men, the defined role and description of a man is such that he has to be powerful and dominant. Besides the expectation is also that his partner would be a woman, the subordinate individual.

It took years for society to accept men as active members in a kitchen, someone who can design clothes for women, would love to run a home, spend time with children, or even cry. The point is not about men

taking over traditionally assumed spaces that women were limited to but is about the realisation that men would probably move into different spaces and assume a notion of women that is far more equal. Women would also have more options to choose from and a role that is not limited primarily to what we see generally and assume is her domain.

This is not where the impact of patriarchy ends. Opaque senselessness that has hinged beliefs on fixed notions has an impact that goes beyond public life: a woman can only partner a man. A man can only love a woman who has to 'serve' him.

Patriarchy interferes with the reality of homosexuality as well as bisexuality. What we see in all the 'progressive' debates and laws on rape, molestation and sexual harassment is the absence and exclusion of an important section — the LGBT community. And if you take a closer view of this community, you would see probably a lot more similarities in the abuse and suffering that women go through. The only difference is their (LGBT) form of love is a crime in itself.

Now, if given a chance, more men can appear as beauties, as we slowly see them emerge from being the macho man. But something as simple as this is difficult for a society such as ours to assimilate.

If we were to realise and appreciate the transcending possibilities of differing roles and individuality, we could be a far more caring culture. We would today, not just count the number of sexual assaults against women but also count and take action and raise voices every time a man or boy is abused within his own home. Reports suggest that almost 60% of children face abuse in domestic surroundings and one could safely say that boys too are abused. These children grow into a system that permits such acts and then limits each individual into a prototype of sorts. A boy should not cry, that is the privilege of women. A man can't be seen as to have been abused. That is a sign of weakness which questions the strength that defines manliness, and so on. And yes, everyone is heterosexual, those who aren't, are not normal!

In this state and time we live in, discourse needs to have a broader parameter and sense of reality. What is needed is a gender-neutral policy that sees each human being as one. By viewing each other in different roles, particularly the male, we could seriously be challenging patriarchy leading to a far more significant change in society.

Sharif D Rangnekar is CEO & Director, Integral PR
The views expressed by the author are personal

Hindustan Times, February 4, 2014, P.14 (Sexual Abuse)

3.5 Women Safety/Support Services (Police Initiative/ Women Helpline/ Sexual Offences)



Hindustan (H), February 7, 2014, P.9
(Women Safety)



Hindustan (H), February 19, 2014, P.4
(Police Initiative)



The Times of India, February 25, 2014, P.4
(Women Helpline)



The Times of India, February 20, 2014, P.5
(Sexual Offences)

3.6 Women -other issues (Alimony/ Rescue of Women/ Aggrieved Women-Complaints/ Honour Killing /Mahila Bank/ Women Journalist/ Nirbhaua Keralam)

NO ALIMONY FOR WOMAN EARNING MORE THAN HUSBAND: HIGH COURT

UDAYAN KISHOR
udayankishor@thestatesman.net
New Delhi, 27 February

The Delhi High Court has made it clear that a wife earning as much or more than her husband will not be entitled to get alimony from him after divorce. The High court said the country's laws treat both men and woman as equals and there cannot be any discrimination. "In case a woman is living separate from her husband and is earning equal or more, she will not be entitled to get alimony," said the HC bench of Indermeet Kaur, while dismissing a woman's plea seeking living allowance from a husband. The bench also imposed a penalty of Rs 5000 on the applicant. The law for alimony is for those women who are helpless and not able to earn their living and not for those who are self-reliant, the court said. "This petition shows the petitioner's mentality to disturb her husband by taking help from the law. In that case, she may be punished," said the bench. The court also noted that the lower court did no mistake by dismissing her plea seeking living allowance. The petitioner is a government employee and earns around Rs 40,000 as salary per month. She also gets house rent allowance from the government. Her husband, too, earns almost the same amount. Both of them live with their parental families. In that case, she is not entitled to get living allowance or to live in their house, said the bench. The court also observed that the issue of returning jewellery and other things is already being dealt in another case related to dowry. The petitioner had earlier approached a lower court to claim the goods and claimed to have witnessed domestic violence.

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

- 1 HC said country's law treats both men and women as equals and there can not be any discrimination
- 2 The petitioner is a government employee and earns around Rs 40,000 salary per month, almost the same as her husband
- 3 A lower court had also dismissed the petitioner's plea

The Statesman, February 28, 2014, P.3 (Alimony)

Women can e-mail, post complaints to SC cell

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 - The committee set up in the Supreme Court to deal with instances of sexual harassment within its precincts has decided that aggrieved women can send their complaints to it by post or e-mail. "The aggrieved women as defined in clause 2(a) of the Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013 may make a complaint in writing of sexual harassment at Supreme Court of India precincts to the GSICC through its Member Secretary - Rachna Gupta, Registrar," the circular reads, adding it has been done to sensitise the general public on gender issues. It said the first meeting of the committee was held on December 9, 2013 to workout the modalities for the effective implementation of "The Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013" and to take decision on related issues. "The complaint shall be sent either by registered post, courier, speed post or e-mail. It can also be handed over personally at the above said address," the circular said, adding the confidentiality of the inquiry proceedings shall be maintained. The aggrieved women can send their complaint on the email ID of Rachna Gupta at gupta.Rachna@indianjudiciary.gov.in. In January this year, the committee in its annual report had said it had received two complaints from two women lawyers since its inception in November 2013 and the complaints were pending disposal. Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam had formed GSICC which is headed by the Supreme Court's woman judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, and has six other women members. - PTI

The Assam Tribune, February 20, 2014, P.2 (Aggrieved Women-Complaints)

NaMo App to Come to Rescue of Women

In trouble, all one needs to do is shake the mobile thrice within five seconds to activate app

OUR BUREAU AHMEDABAD
After marketing a pepper spray under the Narendra Modi brand name, Modi-Fying India, a Facebook initiative to promote brand Modi, has come up with yet another innovation: this time, it's launching a mobile app for the safety of women on March 8, International Women's Day. "The app called NaMo is designed to help people in distress in a silent fashion," says Tajendarpal Singh Bagga, the man behind the initiative. "While there are other apps available in the market, they are often cumbersome to use in panic situations," Bagga told ET, adding that this app is easier to operate and would work faster. "In a dangerous situation, all one needs to do is shake the mobile phone thrice within five seconds to activate the app," he explains. The app will then make calls to pre-determined numbers as well as to the police and start sending out location details through messages. "Even if internet isn't available in that particular situation for the mobile, it will track the location detail by the nearest mobile tower and forward the location," adds Bagga. Once activated, the app would put the mobile in silent mode and all incoming calls will be received by default. "Attackers tend to snatch the phone once it rings, so a silent phone is the safest bet," he says.



The Economic Times, February 22, 2014, P.3 (Rescue of Women)

Separate law needed to fight honour killings, says panel

Rakhi Chakrabarty | TNN
New Delhi: A high-level committee on status of women sought a separate law to punish those involved in honour killings. It also urged that the next round of data collection by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) should also have figures on violence against women. The 14-member committee, which submitted its preliminary report to women and child development (WCD) minister Krishna Tirath on Monday, identified violence against women, declining sex ratio and economic disempowerment as three key issues demanding immediate action by the government. Set up by the Centre in 2012, it is expected to submit its final report on socio-economic, political and legal status of women in 2015. **WOMEN UNDER ATTACK** Though there is a perceptible increase in violence against women, enough data related to this is unavailable. Speaking to TOI, committee chairperson Pam Rajput said, "The NCRB does not give scientific data on violence against women." The committee suggested a mechanism for annual survey by a cell within the WCD ministry or any other organization to collect data on violence against women. It also rooted for a search committee for selection of members to be appointed to the National Commission for Women. "Appointments must be made keeping professional capability in mind and not political affiliations," the committee recommended. This is significant in the backdrop of the recent controversy after the Delhi government sought ouster of the Delhi Commission for Women's chief, who was called a "political appointee" by AAP members. The committee urged the NCW to move beyond reactive interventions and assume a proactive role. Stressing on the need for a national policy coupled with an action plan to end gender violence. "If the government agrees, we are ready with the draft," said Rajput. The committee sought an upgrade for the WCD minister to cabinet rank and more resources. "Currently, about 96% of the ministry's budget is spent for children with 4% left for women," said Rajput. For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

The Times of India, February 4, 2014, P.11 (Honour Killing)

महिलाओं को आर्थिक मजबूती देगा भारतीय महिला बैंक

साक्षात्कार



ऊषा अनंथसुब्रमण्यम
महिला बैंक की अध्यक्ष

एक नई सोच के साथ शुरू किए गए भारतीय महिला बैंक का मकसद महिलाओं का आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण है। इसे पूरा करने के लिए नए बैंकिंग उत्पाद तैयार किए गए हैं। यह कहना है देश के सबसे नए बैंक भारतीय महिला बैंक की पहली चेयरमैन और प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) ऊषा अनंथसुब्रमण्यम का। बैंक की योजनाओं और उसकी रणनीति पर अमर उजाला के सीनियर एडिटर हरवीर सिंह और प्रमुख संवाददाता प्रशांत श्रीवास्तव ने ऊषा अनंथसुब्रमण्यम से बातचीत की। पेश है मुख्य अख- भारतीय महिला बैंक खोलने का क्या उद्देश्य है? देश के इस सबसे नये बैंक की पहली प्रमुख होने का मौका आपको मिला है उस पर आप क्या कहेंगी।

● भारत में लगभग 50 फीसदी महिलाएं हैं। वह बड़े पैमाने पर आर्थिक गतिविधियों में शामिल रहती हैं लेकिन उनके काम को पूरी तरह से आर्थिक गतिविधि के रूप में स्वीकार्यता नहीं मिली है। उन्हें पुरुष को सहयोग करने वाली के रूप में ही देखा जाता है। जबकि सचाई यह है कि महिलाओं में उद्यमिता का गुण होने के साथ ही वह एक बेहतर बचतकर्ता भी होती हैं। महिला बैंक के जरिए हम महिलाओं को उद्यमी, कारोबारी और बचत के बेहतर विकल्पों के साथ उनके वित्तीय सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा देंगे। इस बैंक की स्थापना के पीछे यही मूल सोच है। जहां तक मुझे पहली सीएमडी बनने का मौका मिलने की बात है तो बैंक की स्थापना के लिए बनी समिति के समय से ही मैं

यह सभी बैंक के कर्ज देने की प्राथमिकता में होंगे। हमने महिलाओं को ध्यान में रखकर खाम उत्पाद बनाए हैं। फेडरिंग लोन के तहत हम महिलाओं को 50 हजार रुपये से लेकर पांच लाख रुपये तक का कर्ज देंगे। इसके अलावा हमने इंस्टीट्यूट आफ चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट्स आफ इंडिया के साथ छात्रों को एजुकेशन लोन देने का समझौता किया है। जिसमें लड़कियों को एक फीसदी कम दर पर एजुकेशन लोन मिलेगा।

बैंक में भर्तियां करने को लेकर क्या योजना है?

● अभी तक 100 अधिकारियों की भर्ती की गई है। छह महीने में 200 नए भर्तियां करेंगे। अभी ज्यादातर वरिष्ठ अधिकारी डेप्युटेशन पर दूसरे बैंकों से आए हैं। हमें एक केंद्र बनाना है। नियुक्तियों में महिलाओं को भी प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी।

बैंक की शाखाओं के विस्तार की योजना है?

● अभी बैंक की नौ शाखाएं हैं। मार्च तक 16 नई शाखाएं खोलेंगी। साल 2014-15 में 55 नई शाखाएं खोलने की योजना है। हम एटीएम का भी विस्तार कर रहे हैं। अपने विस्तार पर हमें काफी तेजी से काम करना है क्योंकि केवल मेट्रो शहरों में ही सेवाएं देने से महिला बैंक खोलने का मकसद पूरा नहीं होगा। हम एनजीओ को भी जोड़ रहे हैं। लखनऊ में एक एनजीओ के साथ मिलकर महिलाओं को जरूरत के उत्पाद बेचने वाली महिलाओं को छोटे दुकान खोलने के लिए कर्ज देने की योजना पर काम कर रहे हैं।

Rashtriya Sahara (H), February 8, 2014, P.15
(Mahila Bank)

WCD Min wants better working conditions for women journalists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Woman and Child Development Minister Krishna Tirath has asked the Government-appointed 'High-Level Committee to Improve the Status of Women' to submit a report on improving the working conditions of women journalists in the country.

Worried about the odd work timings, loss of seniority due to maternal leave and security issues among working women journalists, Tirath, who was chairing the consultation on Tuesday, asked the committee consisting of senior journalists Neerja Choudhary and Pamela Philipose to give concrete measures to help the cause of women journalists.

"All women professionals, especially women in the media industry, their work conditions, long hours, as well as their safety and security concerns are the issues which need to be reflected upon. The committee should suggest steps to improve their working climate," said Tirath.

Tirath said that the past few months have seen an upsurge of media activism. "In the Nirbhaya case in particular, the media played a vital role in moulding public opinion and harnessing outrage that ultimately led to very significant amendments to the Criminal Laws pertaining to rape and violent crimes against women," she said.

She said that the goal of this consultation was to encourage the media to be a trailblazer for gender justice and female emancipation in the upcoming years.

The Pioneer, February 5, 2014, P.5
(Women Journalist)

Nirbhaya Keralam, Surakshita Keralam

Launching Nirbhaya Keralam, Surakshitha Keralam project of the State government, the Congress president said her greatest regret was that the Women's Reservation Bill, though approved by the Rajya Sabha, was not pushed through the Lok Sabha for lack of consensus. The Congress, she said, would continue its efforts to get the

The Hindu, February 6, 2014, P.9
(Nirbhaya Keralam)

CRUCIAL Cong president says India needs unity, not change; upset over lack of consensus over women's empowerment bill

Earlier inaugurating the Nirbhaya (women empowerment scheme) programme she said she was really upset that the present government could not pass the women reservation bill due to lack of consensus. "My greatest regret is that women reservation bill has not been able to pass in Lok Sabha due to lack of consensus," she said adding her party would try to realise this.

Lauding the state government's new initiative to start six all-women police stations she wanted to raise the presence of women in police force from the current five per cent to 25 pc in next five years.

Hindustan Times, February 16, 2014, P.10
(Women Reservation Bill)

4. Demography and Vital Statistics

4.1 Census Data/Evaluation/Survey Reports (Report-Ending Newborn Deaths/ Sexual Violence)

SAVE THE CHILDREN

India had the highest number of first-day deaths at 598,038 per year
Million babies die within 24 hrs, says report

London, Feb. 25: A million newborn babies a year die within 24 hours, charity Save the Children said in a report out Tuesday which urged governments to tackle preventable deaths.

The report by the British-based organisation said 6.6 million children around the world died in 2012 before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes.

The number has almost halved from the 12.6 million in 1990, but there remains a "deplorable problem of lack of attention to babies in their first days of life", the aid organisation said.


In its report, entitled "Ending Newborn Deaths", it said one million babies did not survive their first 24 hours of life in 2012.

It said two million babies could be saved each year if preventable newborn mortality was ended.

"Child mortality remains one of the great shames of our modern world. Every day, 18,000 children under five die, and most from preventable causes," the report said. Pakistan had the highest rate of first day deaths and stillbirths at 40.7 per 1,000 births, followed by Nigeria (32.7), Sierra Leone (30.8), Somalia (29.7), Guinea-Bissau (29.4) and Afghanistan (29.0).

India had the highest number of first day deaths and stillbirths at 598,038 per year — a quarter of the 2.2 million lives lost.

The under-five mortality rate in India has been more than halved since 1990, from 126 per 1,000 live births to 56.1. — AFP



The Asian Age, February 26, 2014, P.9 (Report-Ending Newborn Deaths)

India has lower sexual violence than Oz, Africa

TEENA THACKER
NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

India records low rates of sexual violence as compared to countries like Australia, Africa, countries in sub-Saharan Africa, southern sub-Saharan Africa.

Even as the study published in the *Lancet* suggested that worldwide, one in 14 women (7.2 per cent) aged 15 years or older report being sexually assaulted by someone other than an intimate partner at least once in their lives, the estimates noted that global picture varies widely.

According to the *Lancet* countries with the highest rates of sexual violence are those in central sub-Saharan Africa (21%; Democratic Republic of Congo), southern sub-Saharan Africa (17.5%; Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe), and Australasia (16.4%; New Zealand and Australia). However, countries in North Africa/ Middle East (4.5%; Turkey) and south Asia (3.3%; India, Bangladesh) reported the lowest rates.

Within Europe, countries in eastern Europe (6.9%; Lithuania, Ukraine, Azerbaijan) had a much lower prevalence of sexual assault than central (10.7%; Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Kosovo) and western regions (11.5%; Switzerland, Spain, Isle of Man, Sweden, UK, Denmark, Finland, Germany).

After searching systematically for studies published over 13 years (1998-2011) containing data on the global prevalence of women's reported experiences of sexual violence by anyone except intimate partners, professor Naemah Abrahams from the South African Medical Research Council in Cape Town, and colleagues from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the World Health Organisation, identified 77 suitable studies, compiling data on 412 estimates of violence from 56 countries.

- India (3.3%) had one of lowest rates of sexual violence
- Democratic Republic of Congo (21%) had highest while Australia reported 16.4%
- World average was at 7.2%

The Asian Age, February 12, 2014, P.4 (Report-Sexual Violence)

Sexual violence in India low: Report

TEENA THACKER | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB 11

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Within Europe, countries in the western region like Switzerland, Spain, Isle of Man, Sweden, UK, Denmark, Finland, Germany recorded 11.5% sexual violence.

Deccan Chronicle, February 2, 2014, P.7

4.2 Birth Rate/Mortality Rate/Morbidity Rate (IMR)

More infants die in Delhi than any other metropolitan city: Survey

COUNTER Doctors say many of these infants belong to other states and come to Delhi for treatment

HT Correspondent
#htcorrespondent@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: More infants died in the capital than in any other metro city within a year of their birth, a study has found.

As many as three million babies died within the first 28 days of being born and a million babies died within the first 24 hours of their birth across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata between 2010 and 2012, it said.

The NGO - Save the Children, conducted a survey - 'Ending newborn deaths, ensuring every baby survives' across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata between the year 2010 and 2012.

Delhi had the worst infant mortality rate - the death of a child before less than one year of age (IMR) - among 4 metro cities between 2010 and 2012. However, the IMR has come down from 30 to 25 per 1000 live births in the last few days. The progress in reduction of neo natal mortality rate - death during the first 28 days of life (NMR) - still has been slower.

The findings of the report also suggest that in Delhi, of all children dying before their first birthday, 64% die within the first 28 days of their birth.

Child specialists in Delhi hospitals, however, say, that to dub these figures as purely Delhi figures will not be entirely correct as a good percentage of these infants belong to other states and come to the Capital for treatment.

"It is obvious that only critically sick babies come to Delhi for treatment due to lack of quality tertiary care facility in some of our neighbouring states. In our hospital, 40% babies are from outside Delhi and are very sick," said a senior doctor in the department of paediatrics at Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital.

Lok Nayak Hospital has two nurseries, one for the babies born in the hospital and the other for babies from outside the capital. The latter has 25 beds and at any given day is full with very sick babies, out of which 40% are from outside Delhi.

While there has been significant progress on ensuring child survival in India, the fact that nearly 40% of neo-natal deaths occur on the first day of birth in the country is stalling progress on achieving millennium development goal-IV. Incidentally, India accounts for an astounding 29% of the global deaths of newborns on their very first day of birth.

"About half of these newborn deaths can be prevented if every mother and baby had access to free and quality health care," said Sajit Menon, the NGO's Delhi State programme manager.

AT A GLANCE

Three million babies died within first 28 days of birth and a million within first 24 hours of their birth across the 4 cities

Cities	Birth rate	Death rate	Infant mortality rate
Mumbai	14.8	5.7	20
Chennai	15.2	5.0	15
Delhi	17.8	4.4	30
Kolkata	9.8	6.8	20

Figures from 2010-2012

Hindustan Times, February 28, 2014, P.2
(IMR)

पहले ही दिन दम तोड़ देते हैं 40% नवजात

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

देश में 40 प्रतिशत नवजात जन्म के पहले ही दिन दम तोड़ देते हैं। इसका खुलासा सेव द चिल्ड्रेन की जारी रिपोर्ट से हुआ है, जिसमें देश के विभिन्न राज्यों के नवजात मृत्युदर के आंकड़े जारी किए गए हैं। दिल्ली में एनएमआर यानी नवजात मृत्युदर 16 प्रतिशत देखी गई है।

हालांकि इस संदर्भ में ओडीसा और मध्यप्रदेश का स्थान पहले नंबर पर है, जहां यह दर 39 प्रतिशत है। मालूम हो कि भारत सरकार ने स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम की मदद से वर्ष 2015 तक कुल नवजात शिशु मृत्यु दर यानी एमडीजी चार प्रतिशत तक लाने का लक्ष्य रखा है।

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन की निदेशक और स्वास्थ्य सचिव अनुराधा प्रसाद ने रिपोर्ट जारी करते हुए कहा कि वर्ष 2012 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 10 लाख बच्चों की मौत जन्म के पहले दिन हो गई। हालांकि

ओडीसा-मध्यप्रदेश में शिशु मृत्यु दर सबसे ज्यादा

- सेव द चिल्ड्रेन ने जारी की वैश्विक रिपोर्ट, स्वास्थ्य पत्रिका लांसेट के मई के अंक में होगी प्रकाशित
- 16 प्रतिशत दर्ज की गई राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली में नवजात मृत्यु दर

राज्यवार यह है हालात

राज्य	मृत्यु दर (%)	राज्य	मृत्यु दर (%)
ओडीसा	39%	छत्तीसगढ़	31%
मध्य प्रदेश	39%	दिल्ली	19%
राजस्थान	35%	गुजरात	28%
		झारखंड	27%
		केरल	07%

(नवजात मृत्यु दर के आंकड़े)

नवजात मृत्यु दर के आंकड़ों में पांच साल पहले की अपेक्षा कमी देखी गई है, लेकिन हम अब भी अपने लक्ष्य से दूर हैं। एम्स के पीडियाट्रिक्स विभाग के प्रमुख डॉ. विनोद कुमार पॉल ने बताया कि नवजात मृत्यु के मामलों में चिकित्सीय सुविधाओं की कमी को अहम माना गया है, हालांकि पूर्व में जननी सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम के जरिए संस्थागत प्रसव को बढ़ाया गया, जिससे एनएमआर में कमी देखी गई। लेकिन जन्म के समय नवजात का कम वजन, सांस संबंधी परेशानी, इन्फ्यून्डर न होना, गर्भाशय में संक्रमण आदि कुछ ऐसी परेशानियां हैं जिन्हें दूर कर बच्चों को बचाया जा सकता है। सेव द चिल्ड्रेन के प्रभारी थॉमस चैडी कहते हैं कि पोलियो मुक्ति के बाद अब नवजात के जीवन को बचाने का लक्ष्य रखना चाहिए। मालूम हो कि 'न्यूबॉर्न डेथ' नामक इस अध्ययन को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य पत्रिका लांसेट के मई महीने के अंक में प्रकाशित की जाएगी।

Hindustan (H), February 27, 2014, P.6
(IMR)

Delhi records highest infant mortality rate among metros, Chennai lowest

In Delhi, 64% newborns die within the first 28 days

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The National Capital had the worst Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) among the four metropolitan cities between 2010 and 2012 with 30 newborns dying for every 1,000 live births, a new report has said. A substantial 64 per cent die within the first 28 days of their birth.

Though the IMR has come down to 25 per 1,000 live births in the past months, the progress in reduction of neonatal mortality rate (NMR) has been slower, according to 'Save the Children' global report 'Ending newborn deaths, ensuring every baby survives' that was launched here on Tuesday.

In 2012, three million babies died within the first 28 days of their birth and a million babies died within the first 24 hours of their birth, it says. Comparatively, Chennai recorded the lowest IMR of 15 per 1,000 live births and in Mumbai and Kolkata it was 20 per 1,000 live births.

In respect to Delhi, where 50 percent of the children live in slums and 14.71 per cent of its population is below poverty line — the focus of National



A low birth weight child at the Institute of Child Health in Chennai.

Health Mission on maternal and child health, and especially new born by providing adequate number of skilled frontline health workers, building community mechanisms for monitoring and a stronger health system will enable the state to lead on tackling new born child survival, the report points out.

While there has been significant progress on ensuring child survival in India, the

fact that nearly 40 per cent of neo-natal deaths occur on the 1st day of birth in India is stalling progress on achieving Millennium Development Goal-4 (reducing IMR). India accounts for an astounding 29 per cent of the global deaths of newborns on their very first day of birth. About half the first-day deaths around the world could be prevented if every mother and baby had access to free

and quality health care and skilled birth attendants.

Considerable progress

"India has made a lot of progress in terms of child survival," Anuradha Gupta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said after releasing the report. "But we need to ensure that every child is saved." "If we want to achieve MDG -4 by 2015, we have to focus on ensuring survival on the first day of birth," Thomas Chandu, CEO, 'Save the Children' said. "Our report reveals the true scale of the newborn crisis. Without targeted action now, progress made in cutting child mortality will stall. If we can eradicate polio, we can also ensure that a child does not die due to preventable reasons," he said.

With the Call to Action on Child Survival, the Centre has demonstrated a high level of commitment and political will towards ensuring child survival. India has the technical know-how; what is required is a greater urgency to ongoing efforts and focus on the poorest and the most marginalised groups," the report says.

The Hindu, February 26, 2014, P.16 (IMR)

'Infant mortality varies within states'

42 Babies Out Of 1,000 Die Before Reaching Age Of One Year In Country

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

It is well known that quality of life varies greatly amongst different states within India. Some states have greater industrial or agricultural output, higher income levels, better education and health indicators, while others are still struggling with backwardness. But what is less known is that within states too, there are wide variations. State-level averages often hide huge and unconscionable disparity on life and death issues.

Recently released data on infant mortality rates (IMR) — a key measure of health and wellbeing — shows that it varies widely within states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. IMR refers to the number of newborn babies that die before reaching the age of one year, as a proportion of 1000 live births. These deaths are mostly due to treatable diseases or malnutrition. The data is part of the Sample

MP TOPS LIST

Infant Mortality: The Gulf Behind the Averages	
India	42
Gujarat	45
Western parts	51
Saurashtra	31
Maharashtra	30
Vidarbha	51
Northern parts	23
Madhya Pradesh	60
Central	70
Southwestern parts	46
Karnataka	36
Southern	44
Coastal & Ghats	16

Source: SRS Stat. Report 2012, ORGI
Unit: 1/1,000 kids dying before 1-yr age

Registration System (SRS) survey covering 7.35 million people conducted by the Census Office in 2012.

In Gujarat's arid districts of Kachchh, Banaskantha and Surendernagar, IMR is

high at 51. This region is at the tail end of the Narmada waters coming from Sardar Sarovar. In contrast, the relatively better-off Saurashtra region's six districts exhibit an IMR of just 31. Saurashtra is agriculturally much more advanced and fed by Narmada waters. Gujarat's average IMR is 45, slightly higher than the national average of 42.

Narayan Singh, a doctor at a primary health center in Kachchh told TOI that doctors' availability and access to healthcare services are the key factors that determine IMR. In Kachchh, private doctors are fewer, while government centers are unable to cope with patients. Villages are far flung and people can't reach health facilities in time.

Maharashtra has an IMR of 30, well below the national average. But seven districts of the Vidarbha region have an IMR of 51, about 70% higher than the state average. In effect, Vidarbha's babies face the same future as those in Rajasthan or Uttar Pradesh, although the Maharashtra

state average doesn't show that. In northern Maharashtra, Nandurbar, Dhule, Nashik and Jalgaon districts have an IMR of 23.

Access to healthcare is only one of the factors, says T Sundaraman, executive director of the National Health Systems Resource Centre, which provides technical support to the government's National Rural Health Mission.

"Basic issues seem to be education, especially women's education, access to safe water and sanitation, and malnutrition. The number of health care professionals (nurses+doctors) per 1000 population, both public and private, would also contribute to better or worse performance for a given level of education", he said.

In Madhya Pradesh, six districts of the central region, which includes Bhopal, have a shockingly high IMR of 70, while the Vindhya region, which includes the southern Bundelkhand districts, has an IMR of 68. The state average is 60, the highest in the

country. Surprisingly, the tribal-dominated southwestern region of MP has the lowest IMR in the state at 46.

Karnataka's three districts in the coastal and ghat region have an IMR of just 16, comparable to the adjacent northern Kerala's 14. But once one moves into interior Karnataka, the situation worsens — in the seven southern districts, including Bangalore, Mysore and Kolar, IMR is 44, higher than the state average of 36.

IMR in Rajasthan's southern and southeastern regions, which include Kota, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Baran, and Durgapur, is 66, much higher than the state average of 54. This tribal region is arid in its western reaches but not so much in the east. In Odisha, the tribal-dominated southern region has an IMR of 68, compared to the state average of 55.

In many states, IMR variations are limited. These include lower IMR states like Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala, and high IMR states like UP and Assam.

The Times of India, February 3, 2014, P.13 (IMR)

'Infant mortality varies within states'

42 Babies Out Of 1,000 Die Before Reaching Age Of One Year In Country

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

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Source: SRS Stat. Report 2012, DRGI Unit: 1/1,000 kids dying before 1-yr age

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Karnataka's three districts in the coastal and ghat region have an IMR of just 16, comparable to the adjacent northern Kerala's 14. But once one moves into interior Karnataka, the situation worsens — in the seven southern districts, including Bangalore, Mysore and Kolar, IMR is 44, higher than the state average of 36.

IMR in Rajasthan's southern and southeastern regions, which include Kota, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Baran, and Durgapur, is 66, much higher than the state average of 54. This tribal region is arid in its western reaches but not so much in the east. In Odisha, the tribal-dominated southern region has an IMR of 68, compared to the state average of 55.

In many states, IMR variations are limited. These include lower IMR states like Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala, and high IMR states like UP and Assam.

The Times of India, February 3, 2014, P.13 (IMR)

4.3 Demography and other relevant statistics (NCRB Data-Dowry Harassment)

Andhra topped in dowry harassment cases in 2012

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh tops the list in Dowry cases with 2511 cases recorded in 2012 while Odisha was second with 1487 cases recorded under the Dowry Prohibition Act.

Madhya Pradesh was in the top of the list for domestic violence with 9,536 cases followed by Tamil Nadu which recorded 3,838 cases under the Domestic Violence Act 2005 in 2012 according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Karnataka (1328), Bihar (1353) and Jharkhand (1066) also reported quite a large number of dowry cases while Andhra Pradesh reported 2150 cases of domestic violence for the year 2012.

The NCRB data shows an increasing trend of dowry and domestic violence cases in most of the states barring Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura which reported zero cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act, said the Women and Child Development Ministry in its reply to the Lok Sabha on Friday. *PTI*

The Pioneer, February 22, 2014, P.4
(NCRB Data-Dowry Harassment)

5. Schemes/Programmes relating to Women and Children

5.1 Schemes/Programmes (Mid Day Meal/ Stree Swasthya Suraksha Yojana/ IGMSY/ Saksham -Scheme for Adolescent Boys/ Rastriya Gramin Aajivika Mission/ Programme-RKSK)

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Five ministries team up in bid to improve mid-day meal scheme

By PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

Five central government ministries will join hands to improve India's school meal programme that feeds nearly 110 million children at an annual cost of ₹13,215 crore. The decision was arrived at after the first meeting of an empowered committee on mid-day meal on Tuesday. The committee was constituted after 23 children died in Bihar after eating contaminated mid-day meal in a rural school in July 2013.

"There is a need for consolidation of the scheme in collaboration with the other ministries and departments," said human resource development (HRD) minister M.M. Pallam Raju who presided over the meeting attended by representatives from various departments and ministries, including rural development, Panchayati Raj (local governance), health, women and child development, and drinking water.

Launched both to address nutritional issues as well as ensure more enrolment and attendance in schools, the welfare programme is largely funded by a 2% education cess on income-tax.

In the 2013-14 budget, the central government allocated ₹13,215 crore for the flagship scheme run by the HRD

ministry in collaboration with states.

To improve the scheme, the HRD ministry will now tap the rural development ministry to build cooking sheds and allied infrastructure under the latter's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme.

The health ministry will chip in to extend benefits under the national rural health mission; these will include regular health check-ups and the provision of micro nutrients. Drinking water can be provided by the concerned department, Panchayati Raj executives can help monitor the scheme, and hygiene and sanitation can be improved in collaboration with departments like sanitation, and women and child development, a spokesperson of the ministry explained after the meeting.

"The committee felt that appropriate steps need to be taken to enhance drinking water and sanitation facilities in all the schools in convergence with ministry of drinking water and sanitation. The scheme of ministry of drinking water and sanitation for water supply to all the schools should be circulated to all the states," the HRD ministry said in a statement.

According to another document, the ministry hopes to engage accredited laboratories to test the food.

Mint, February 5, 2014, P.2
(Mid Day Meal)

मिड-डे मिल को स्वास्थ्य मिशन से जोड़ा

नई दिल्ली, (बार्ता): केन्द्र सरकार ने मिड-डे मिल योजना को राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन से जोड़ने का फैसला किया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने देश के सभी राज्यों के शिक्षा विभाग को पत्र लिखकर कहा है कि राष्ट्रीय बाल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम योजना को कारगर ढंग से समन्वय करने के लिए कदम उठाए। सरकार ने बाल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम नामक इस नयी योजना के तहत नवजात शिशु से 18 साल के बच्चों के रोगों पीछे आहार में कमी, आदि को दूर करने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं ताकि बच्चे विकलांग न हो सकें एवं उनका विकास सही हो। आज यहां जारी एक सरकारी विज्ञापन के अनुसार वर्ष 13-14 में करीब 3 करोड़ 45 लाख बच्चों इस कार्यक्रम में चिन्हित किए गए हैं। करीब 12 लाख बच्चों को उनका स्वास्थ्य बेहतर करने की जरूरत है। आंगनवाड़ी एवं स्कूलों के बच्चों के लिए 4844 प्रखंड की संचल स्वास्थ्य टीमों को सक्रिय बनाया गया है। जन स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों में सभी नवजात शिशुओं की जांच पड़ताल भी की गयी है। मिड-डे मिल योजना को संयुक्त निगरानी मिशन ने राष्ट्रीय बाल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम के क्रियान्वन को भी समीक्षा की है। इसके अलावा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण के प्रतिनिधियों ने भी हर स्तर पर मिड-डे मिल योजना के क्रियान्वन की निगरानी की है।

Punjab Kesari (H), February 12, 2014, P.4
(Mid Day Meal)

Mid-day meal scheme fails to fight malnutrition

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The decade-old mid-day meal scheme for primary school children, rolled out with the twin aims of fighting malnutrition and improving attendance by providing cooked food, still appears too little to fight the menace of malnutrition in many states, including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

A large number of elementary school children are suffering from "severe" malnutrition in as many as nine states, with the highest figure of 31 per cent girls and 24 per cent boys being recorded in Uttar Pradesh.

In Tamil Nadu, the percentage of such boys is 24.30 while it is 14 per cent among girls enrolled in elementary schools. Gujarat has 17.87 per cent severely malnourished boys and 9.83 per cent girls.

The nutritional status of school children has been brought to fore by a joint review mission, set up by Human Resource Development Ministry to assess implementation and impact of the mid-day meal scheme during 2013-14. The central team, in its report to the HRD Ministry,

A large number of elementary school children are suffering from "severe" malnutrition in as many as nine states

has recommended immediate medical intervention for these children. The team has visited 18 states so far. It examined 384 boys and 452 girls to determine their nutritional status in Uttar Pradesh; 436 boys and 366 girls in Tamil Nadu; and 263 boys, and 295 girls in Gujarat. In Delhi, the team found 13.46 per cent boys and 4.48 per cent girls were severely malnourished at the schools visited by it. As many as 8.84 per cent boys and 10.34 per cent girls were found severely malnourished in Assam. The team found many children suffering from malnourishment in Odisha, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura also.

During its visits to the states, the team also found large number of children "moderately" malnourished, recommending that the respective state governments should consider providing them additional meals. To determine the nutritional status, it carried out anthropometric measurements and clinical assessments as well as looked into dietary pattern of children.

"The children falling under the category of moderately malnourished require additional meals. The states and union territories concerned need to concentrate on the issues to resolve the problem. If these children receive proper nutrition their nutritional status can be enhanced," the central team suggested.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, February 25, 2014, P.13
(Mid Day Meal)

Mid-day meal scheme yet to make its mark in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, Feb 14 - More than 18 years after it was rolled out in Meghalaya, the mid-day meal scheme has failed to keep children in schools or provide dietary nutrition - the two objectives of the Centrally-sponsored scheme.

A survey of the schools in the State where the scheme was launched in 1995 discovered that over 50 per cent children still suffered from stunted growth and that the food served is mostly deficient in vitamins and micro-nutrients. Children covered under the scheme have remained underweight and suffer from severe stunted growth, the survey conducted by a special team of the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) revealed.

The study showed that the overall prevalence of stunted growth among the school children was 59 per cent compared to the national average of 48 per cent.

The proportion is higher in the district of East Khasi Hills (65.3 per cent) and Ri-Bhoi district (49.1 per cent).

The problem is higher among girls as compared to boys in at least two districts of East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi.

The survey report also rapped the State Government for the fact that over 29 per cent of the toilets in the schools are non-functional.

The survey also finds that only rice is served to the children.

The MHRD team, which comprised experts from the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, suggested that alternate rice and wheat preparations be included in the menu to provide a "wholesome cereal meal". - PTI

The Assam Tribune, February 15, 2014, P.7
(Mid Day Meal)

मिड-डे-मील की गुणवत्ता से समझौता नहीं

पल्लम राजू की अध्यक्षता में उच्चाधिकार प्राप्त समिति की पहली बैठक

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री एमएम पल्लम राजू ने कहा कि स्कूलों में मिड-डे-मील योजना में स्वच्छता, सुरक्षा और गुणवत्ता को लेकर किसी तरह का समझौता नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। इस योजना में जो राज्य बेहतर कार्य कर रहे हैं, उनसे अन्य राज्यों को सीखना चाहिए ताकि योजना का लाभ लाभार्थियों तक पहुंच सके। मिड-डे-मील योजना के लिए गठित उच्चाधिकार प्राप्त समिति ने मिड-डे-मील योजना में स्वच्छता, सुरक्षा और गुणवत्ता सुधार पर खासा जोर दिया है। इस समिति की पहली बैठक मंगलवार को यहां केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित की गई थी।

समिति ने योजना के तहत बच्चों की बढ़ती संख्या पर प्रसन्नता जाहिर की है। वर्ष 2010-11 में 104.6 मिलियन बच्चे योजना से लाभान्वित थे, लेकिन वर्ष 2012-13 में इनकी संख्या बढ़कर 106.7 मिलियन हो गई है।

समिति ने इस अवधि में असम, बिहार, गुजरात, हरियाणा, सिक्किम, तमिलनाडु और पश्चिम बंगाल में बच्चों की संख्या में बढ़ोतरी की प्रशंसा की है जबकि कुछ राज्यों में खराब प्रदर्शन पर असंतोष जाहिर किया। समिति ने खराब प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्यों से सुधार करने का आह्वान किया। समिति ने मिड-डे-मील योजना के तहत रसोई और भंडार में सुरक्षा, स्वच्छता और गुणवत्ता बेहतर करने को कहा है। इस मुद्दों को लेकर समिति ने अपनी समीक्षा में पर्याप्त पेजजल और शौचालय की सुविधा को कारगर तरीके से सुनिश्चित करने का आह्वान किया है।

समिति ने 19 संयुक्त कार्य-मिशन की समीक्षा की। समिति ने मिड-डे-मील योजना में संसद सदस्य की अध्यक्षता में जिला स्तरीय सतर्कता और निगरानी समिति की बैठक में उपरोक्त मुद्दों की समीक्षा करने को कहा गया है।

Rashtriya Sahara (H), February 5, 2014, P.9 (Mid Day Meal)

Increase in midday meal coverage, says Panel

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 4 February

The coverage of children under mid day meal scheme has increased from 104.6 million children in 2010-11 to 106.7 million children in 2012-13, the first meeting of the Empowered Committee for Mid Day Meal Scheme today noted.

The committee appreciated the increase in coverage in Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal during the same period. It expressed satisfaction with the reduction in the number of poorly performing districts from 177 to 111. However, it exhorted Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh to focus on the poorly performing districts.

The committee also reviewed the performance of the completion of kitchen-cum-stores. While appreciating the steps taken by Bihar and Maharashtra, it asked other states to take necessary steps to complete the kitchen-cum-stores to ensure safety, hygiene and quality of food.

The committee felt that appropriate steps need to be taken to enhance drinking water and sanitation facilities in all schools in convergence with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

The Committee presided over by the Human Resources Development Minister Dr M M Pallam Raju decided to place more emphasis on quality, hygiene and safety aspects of the mid day meal.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the Ministers of State Mr. Jitin Prasada and Dr Shashi Tharoor, Ministers of Education of Bihar and Meghalaya, representatives of the various ministries of the Government including Health and Family Welfare, Panchayati Raj, Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs. Representatives of several NGOs also gave their inputs.

The Statesman, February 5, 2014, P.7
(Mid Day Meal)

स्कूलों में मध्याह्न भोजन की जांच के लिए नहीं जा सकेंगे बाहरी व्यक्ति

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
नई दिल्ली, 10 फरवरी। दिल्ली नगर निगम के स्कूलों में अब बाहरी व्यक्ति का प्रवेश वर्जित हो गया है। पूर्वी दिल्ली नगर निगम की स्थायी समिति ने सोमवार को यह फैसला लेते हुए निर्देश दिया है कि अगर बिना अधिकृत कोई व्यक्ति मिड डे मिल या शिक्षा व्यवस्था देखने के नाम पर अंदर घुसता है और स्कूल में कोई हादसा हो जाता है तो इसके लिए स्कूल के प्राचार्य और सुरक्षा प्रहरी जिम्मेवार होंगे। हालांकि रोक के दायरे में इलाके के सांसद, विधायक और निगम पार्षद को शामिल नहीं किया गया है पर उनके साथ थोक के भाव में कार्यकर्ता बन कर स्कूल की जांच में शामिल लोगों को इससे वर्जित रखा गया है।

दरअसल निगम स्कूलों में राजनीतिक दलों की टोपी पहन कर कोई भी बाहरी व्यक्ति आसानी से छात्रों, शिक्षकों और प्राचार्य की मौजूदगी में मध्याह्न भोजन की जांच करने पहुंच जाते थे। निगम की स्थायी समिति ने छात्रों की सुरक्षा और खतरे की आशंका को देखते हुए बाहरी लोगों के प्रवेश पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का आदेश दिया है। सोमवार को निगम स्कूल शिक्षकों का एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल निगम के आला अधिकारियों से मिलकर इस बात की जानकारी दी थी। पिछले दिनों एक विधायक के साथ कुछ कार्यकर्ता स्कूल में घुसकर जांच के नाम पर हंगामा किया था।

स्थायी समिति के अध्यक्ष सुरजन ने निर्देश देते हुए कहा कि कोई भी व्यक्ति टोपी पहनकर मध्याह्न भोजन की जांच करने पहुंच जाता है। बाहरी लोगों के ऐसा करने से बच्चों की सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य से खिलवाड़ हो रहा है। कोई भी संदिग्ध व्यक्ति टोपी पहन कर छात्रों को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है। निगम को इस ओर सख्त कदम उठाने चाहिए।

सत्तापक्ष और विपक्ष की सहमति के बाद दिए अध्यक्ष के निर्देश पर पूर्वी दिल्ली नगर निगम के निदेशक शिक्षा के विजयन ने सभी स्कूलों को इस बाबत निर्देश जारी कर दिया है।

Jansatta (H), February 11, 2014, P.4
(Mid Day Meal)

उत्तरी दिल्ली निगम में स्त्री स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा योजना लागू

जनसत्ता संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली, 26 फरवरी। आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग की महिलाओं की स्वास्थ्य की देखभाल के लिए उत्तरी दिल्ली नगर निगम ने स्त्री स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा योजना का प्रस्ताव पास किया है। निगम के शहरी स्लम्स और इसी तरह की अन्य जगहों पर रहने वाली महिलाओं में पाई जाने वाली पांच प्रकार के कैंसर की रोकथाम और इलाज के बावत इस योजना को लागू किया गया है। इसे अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स) के साथ मिलकर चालू किया गया है। बीमारी की जांच और फिर सकारात्मक पाए जाने पर उसके इलाज के लिए निगम निशुल्क सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराएगा। इसके लिए इलाज के लिए अधिकृत अस्पताल भेजा जाएगा। बुधवार को निगम की स्थायी समिति की बैठक में इस आशय के प्रस्ताव को सत्तापक्ष और विपक्ष ने चर्चा के बाद पास कर दिया।

निगम आयुक्त के मुताबिक यह योजना महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य के प्रति निगम की चिंता जाहिर करने के लिए काफी है। तंग बस्तियों में रहने वाली महिलाओं में इन दिनों पांच

प्रकार के कैंसर ज्यादा पाई जा रही है। स्तन कैंसर, गोल ब्लेडर, बच्चादानी और गर्भाशय में इन दिनों महिलाओं को इस बीमारी से समना करना पड़ता है। निगम ने इसे गंभीरता से लेते हुए इस योजना की रूपरेखा बनाकर फिर तमाम पहलुओं की जांच कर लागू करने का फैसला किया है। इसके लिए पांच नोडल सेंटर और उत्तरी दिल्ली नगर निगम के पांच अस्पतालों को चिन्हित किया गया है। 50 लाख रुपए अंडर हेट जो वित्तीय साल 2013-14 से और सी करोड़ रुपए वित्तीय साल 2014-15 इसके लिए चालू वित्तीय साल में

प्रस्तावित किया गया है। दिल्ली नगर निगम की स्थायी समिति में प्रशासनिक मंजूरी के लिए इसे रखा जाएगा।

इस योजना के बारे में बताते हुए निगम आयुक्त ने कहा कि पिछले कुछ दिनों से दिल्ली में महिलाओं के बीमार होने की संख्या में लगातार वृद्धि हुई है। एनीमिया आदि बीमारी होने का मुख्य कारण कम वजन के बच्चे का जन्म, समय से पहले बच्चे को पैदाइश आदि कारण हैं। इसके अलावा गंभीर रूप से जो बीमारी पाई जा रही है उसमें कैंसर सबसे ज्यादा है। इसके फैलने के भी कई कारण हैं। सामाजिक रूप से अव्यवस्थित जगहों पर रहने वाली महिलाएं इस बीमारी की ज्यादा शिकार हो रही हैं। जब तक इसका इलाज शुरू होता है तब तक यह बीमारी महिलाओं को अपनी चपेट में ले लेती है।

स्तन कैंसर इन दिनों महिलाओं में फैलने वाली सबसे बड़ी बीमारी है। राष्ट्रीय कैंसर नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के तहत चलाए गए अभियान में भी स्तन कैंसर सबसे ज्यादा पाई गई है। टाइम पत्रिका ने जो रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित की है उसके मुताबिक स्वास्थ्य के प्रति बेपरवाह महिलाएं इसकी ज्यादा शिकार हो रही हैं। इसके लिए परीक्षण और फिर उसकी तमाम जांच के बाद इलाज जरूरी है। ज्यादातर विकासशील देश इस मामले में गंभीर हैं और वे समय से महिलाओं की जांच कर इस बीमारी को रोकने में प्रयासरत हैं। 50 से 70 साल की महिलाओं की स्वास्थ्य की जांच भी जरूरी है ताकि बीमारी प्रमाणित होने पर उसका तुरंत इलाज किया जाए। कैंसर के दूसरे प्रकार में तीस साल की उन महिलाओं को जो यौनाचार में सजग रहती हैं पर अपनी जांच से भागती हैं। गोल ब्लेडर भी कैंसर के एक प्रकार के रूप में

है। गर्भाशय के कैंसर को मात्रा भी बढ़ती जा रही है। महिलाओं में तीसरे महत्वपूर्ण रूप में कैंसर जहां फैलती है वह है गर्भाशय। इससे मरने वालों की संख्या भी बढ़ गई है। इसके लिए प्रत्येक साल जांच और अल्ट्रासाउंड होना जरूरी होता है।

उत्तरी दिल्ली नगर निगम ने इन तमाम बातों पर गंभीरता से ध्यान देते हुए स्त्री स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा योजना की शुरुआत की है। इसमें पैथोलॉजिकल जांच सहित अन्य सभी जांच मुफ्त में और फिर इलाज की व्यवस्था की निशुल्क रखी गई है। 30 साल के आसपास की महिलाएं जो शहरी स्लम्स और तंग इलाक़ों में रहते हैं उन्हें इस प्रकार की योजना का सीधा लाभ मिलेगा। इसके लिए एएनएम और आशा कार्यकर्ताओं की मदद से शुरुआती दौर पर जांच के लिए अधिकृत किया जाएगा। सूचना शिक्षा और कम्युनिकेशन से बाद में इसका प्रचार किया जाएगा। आशा कार्यकर्ताओं, एएनएम और डाक्टरों को इसके लिए प्रशिक्षित किया जाएगा। नोडल सेंटर से चिकित्सा अधिकारी को रोगियों की जांच कर उसके इलाज की व्यवस्था की जाएगी।

Jansatta (H), February 27, 2014, P.4
(Stree Swasthya Suraksha Yojana)

53 जिलों में इंदिरा गांधी मातृत्व सहयोग योजना

लो. पं. ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ ने लोकसभा में बताया कि इंदिरा गांधी मातृत्व सहयोग योजना (आईजीएमएसवाई) गर्भवती तथा स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं के लिए एक सशर्त नकद अंतरण योजना है जो गर्भवती तथा स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं को उन्नत स्वास्थ्य तथा पोषण के लिए नकद प्रोत्साहन उपलब्ध कराते हुए बेहतर अनुकूल वातावरण में योगदान हेतु अक्टूबर, 2010 में आरंभ की गई थी। उन्होंने बताया कि यह योजनासमेकित बाल विकास योजना (आईसीडीएस) में गर्भवती तथा

स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं को प्रसव से पहले तथा बाद, की स्थिति में मजदूरी की क्षति की आंशिक रूप से भरपाई करने का प्रयास किया गया है। इस योजना में 19 वर्ष की आयु से ऊपर तथा पहले दो बच्चों, सभी सरकारी, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों की कर्मचारियों को छोड़कर, सभी गर्भवती तथा स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं को शामिल किया गया है।

श्रीमती तीरथ ने बताया कि यह योजना उत्तर प्रदेश के तीन जिलों सहित 53 चयनित जिलों में प्रयोगिक आधार पर क्रियान्वित की जा रही है।

Lok Panchayat (H), February- March, 2014, P.3 (IGMSY)



The Pioneer, February 28, 2014, P.5
(Saksham-Scheme for Adolescent Boys)



Lok Panchayat (H), February- March, 2014, P.9
(Rastriya Gramin Aajivika Mission)



Lok Panchayat (H), February- March, 2014, P.10
(Programme-RKSK)

5.3 Legislation/Bills/Court orders (Child Adoption- Muslim Community/JJ Act/ Several Laws—Safety of Women)

'सभी धर्मों के लोग ले सकते हैं गोद'

■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली



सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को कहा कि जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट के तहत किसी भी धर्म का व्यक्ति बच्चा गोद लेने के लिए स्वतंत्र है। इसका नतीजा यह निकाला जा रहा है कि मुस्लिम भी किसी बच्चे को गोद ले सकते हैं, हालांकि पर्सनल लॉ में इसकी इजाजत नहीं है।

चीफ जस्टिस की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच ने कहा कि जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट संविधान के आर्टिकल 44 (समान नागरिक संहिता) में बनाए गए लक्ष्यों की ओर एक छोटा कदम है। व्यक्तिगत आस्था का सम्मान किया जाना चाहिए, लेकिन यह संविधान के प्रावधानों पर हावी नहीं हो सकता है। पर्सनल लॉ से अलग हटकर किसी भी धर्म का कोई भी व्यक्ति जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट के तहत गोद लेने के लिए स्वतंत्र है। विभिन्न समुदायों के बीच विरोधी विचारधाराओं के कारण आर्टिकल का लक्ष्य नहीं पाया जा सका है। कोर्ट इस मसले पर पहले ही चिंता जताकर चुका है। कोर्ट ने गोद लेने के अधिकार को मूलभूत अधिकार घोषित करने से इनकार कर दिया।

सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता शबनम हाशमी ने अदालत से बच्चा गोद लेने के लिए सभी धर्मों और समुदायों पर लागू होने वाले दिशानिर्देश तैयार करने की मांग की थी।

Nav Bharat Times (H),
February 20, 2014, P.1

इस्लामी कानून के हिसाब से नाम और हुकूम नहीं दिए जा सकते

गोद ली हुई औलाद का संपत्ति में हक नहीं : उलेमा

■ जागरण संवाददाता, देवबंद

मुस्लिम दंपति द्वारा बच्चा गोद लिए जाने के संबंध में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले पर देवबंदी उलेमा का कहना है कि मजहब-ए-इस्लाम में बच्चे को पाला पोसा तो जा सकता है लेकिन ऐसी औलाद को अपना नाम और इस्लामी कानून के हिसाब से हुकूम नहीं दिए जा सकते।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को एक फैसले में कहा है कि मुस्लिम दंपति बच्चा गोद ले सकता है। मुस्लिम पर्सनल लॉ बोर्ड इस फैसले में आड़े नहीं आया। इस पर देवबंदी उलेमा का कहना है कि यह औलाद इस्लामी कानून के हिसाब से औलाद नहीं कहलाएगी। दारुल उलूम बक्फ के मुफ्ती आरिफ कासमी का कहना है कि किसी बच्चे को पालने के लिए लेने में कोई हर्ज नहीं है। इस्लाम में ऐसे कई मिसालें मौजूद हैं। लेकिन गोद लिए गए बच्चे को न तो अपना नाम दिया जा सकता है और न सगी औलाद की तरह उसे विरासत दी जा सकती है। संपत्ति में भी गोद लिए गए बच्चे का हिस्सा नहीं होता है। फतवा ऑन मोबाइल सर्विस के चेयरमैन मुफ्ती अरशद फारूकी का कहना है कि ऐसा बच्चा इस्लामी कानूनी औलाद नहीं कहलाएगा। ऐसे बच्चे को अपना नाम नहीं दिया जा सकता है और न ही इस्लामी कानून के हिसाब से हुकूम। प्रसिद्ध इस्लामी विद्वान मौलाना नदीमुल वाजदी का कहना है कि बच्चे को पालन पोषण के लिए लेने में कोई हर्ज नहीं है। लेकिन शरीयत के कानून के मुताबिक वह हकीकी वारिस नहीं होगा और न ही उसे अपना नाम दिया जा सकेगा। शरीयत में बच्चे को गोद लेने की कोई हैसियत नहीं है। बरेली में मुफ्ती सलीम नुरी, मंजरे इस्लाम दरगाह आला हजरत कहते हैं कि बच्चों को गोद लेने की इस्लाम में कोई मनाही नहीं है। हां, उस

बच्चे को गोद लेने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं लेकिन ऐसे बच्चे को पिता का नाम और संपत्ति का अधिकार नहीं मिल सकता। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस बाबत अलग फैसला दिया है तो वह मुस्लिमों की धार्मिक आजादी का हनन है।

- मौलाना अरशद मदनी, जमात ए उलेमा हिंद के सदर

55 दंगा पीड़ितों को मिली अपने मकान की चाबी

जागरण संवाददाता, शामली : जमियत उलेमा-ए-हिंद द्वारा पंजीठ गांव में बनाए गए 55 मकानों की चाबी बुधवार को दंगा पीड़ित 55 परिवारों को सौंप दी गई। इस मौके पर संस्था के महासचिव मौलाना महमूद मदनी ने कहा कि मजलूम कोई भी हो उसकी हिफाजत करना हर नेक बंदे का कर्तव्य और धर्म है। बुधवार को आयोजित कार्यक्रम में संस्था के अध्यक्ष कारी उस्मान मंसूरपुरी ने कहा कि खुदा दंगाइयों को नेक बुद्धि दे। गुजपफरनगर में हुए दंगों के बाद जमियत उलेमा-ए-हिंद ने पीड़ितों को आवास देने के लिए पंजीठ गांव में जगह लेकर 55 मकान बनाए हैं। इसके लिए पीड़ितों से बिना फायदा उठाए बहुत कम धनराशि ली गई है।

बच्चे को गोद लेने वाले माता-पिता का नाम नहीं मिलेगा। उसकी पहचान अपने जन्म देने वाले माता-पिता से ही रहेगी। जो रिश्ते हगम हैं वो हगम रहेंगे, जो हलाल हैं वो हलाल। इसीलिए गोद लिए लड़का या लड़की से परिवार के पुरुष एवं महिलाएं अन्य लोगों की तरह पर्दा रखेंगे।

Dainik Jagran (H), February 20, 2014, P.6

(Child Adoption-Muslim Community)

Muslim Personal Law Board to seek adoption order review

Fundamental Rights Hit, It Claims

Rakhi Chakrabarty | TNN

New Delhi: After the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed people of all religions, including Muslims, to adopt children though it is not allowed under Muslim personal law, there were mixed reactions from the community.

While Syed Zafar Mahmood, former OSD to the Sachar Committee and Zakat Foundation of India president, called it the "best that could have happened", the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said it was considering legal options against the judgment. The AIMPLB had vehemently opposed Shabnam Hashmi's plea for a uniform adoption law in the SC.

Pointing out that Prophet Muhammad encouraged adoption, Zafar Mahmood said, "The judgment dovetails the Islamic law with the law of the land. The Supreme Court, while clearly desisting from



MINORITY REPORT

declaring it as a fundamental right, has technically enabled Muslims to opt for adoption. This is the best situation that could have happened."

AIMPLB spokesperson Abdur Raheem Qureshi, however, said the judgment interfered with fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution. "We are mulling legal options, including seeking a review of the judgment," he said.

SQR Ilyas of the Welfare Party called the judgment "unfortunate". "The judgment is against Muslim personal law and shariat application act. This judgment is based on the Juvenile Justice Act which is not a fundamental right and hence cannot prevail upon the freedom of religion," he said.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

'Islam follows Kafil system'

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to restrain a Muslim if he/she chose to take the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act route to adopt a child. Noting that the Act is a small step in reaching the goal enshrined by Article 44 of the Constitution, the SC bench said, "The vision contemplated in Article 44... that is a Uniform Civil Code, (is) a goal yet to be fully reached."

The Muslim Personal Law Board had vehemently opposed one Shabnam Hashmi's plea for a uniform adoption law that would prevail over all religious prohibitions. The board had given elaborate arguments against permitting Muslims to adopt children.

The board had said Islam did not recognize adopted child to be treated at par with a biological child. "Islamic law professes 'Kafil' system under which the child is placed

under 'Kafil' who provides for the well-being of the child including financial support and this is legally allowed to take care of the child though the child remains true descendant of his biological parents and not that of the 'adoptive' parents," it said.

The board attempted to give legal recognition to its religious 'Kafil' system by informing the court that even United Nation's Convention of the Rights of Child recognized it as an alternative to child care contemplated under JJ Act.

Writing the judgment for the bench, Justice Gogoi said: "An optional legislation (JJ Act) that does not contain an unavoidable imperative cannot be stultified by principles of personal law which, however, would always continue to govern any person who chooses to so submit himself until such time that the vision of Uniform Civil Code is achieved."

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

The Times of India, February 20, 2014, P.15

(Child Adoption-Muslim Community/ JJ Act)

Muslims can adopt child, says SC

Irrespective of their religious background, people are free to adopt children, the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday paving the way for adoption of child by persons hailing from Muslim community. The court said that Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act is a "small step" towards the concept of Uniform Civil Code.

Details on Page 12

SC paves way for adoption of child by Muslim community

NEW DELHI: Irrespective of their religious background, people are free to adopt children, the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday paving the way for adoption of child by persons hailing from Muslim community even though it is not allowed under their personal law.

Holding that Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act is a "small step" towards the concept of Uniform Civil Code, the apex court held that the law entitles adoption by people belonging to any religion and any person, who does not submit himself to personal law, can adopt a child.

"To us, the Act is a small step in reaching the goal enshrined by Article 44 of the Constitution (Uniform Civil Code). Per-

sonal beliefs and faiths, though must be honoured, cannot dictate the operation of the provisions of an enabling statute," a bench headed by Chief Justice P Sathasivam said.

The Act does not mandate any compulsive action by any prospective parent leaving such person with the liberty of accessing the provisions of the Act, if he so desires, the court said.

"Such a person is always free to adopt or choose not to do so and, instead, follow what he comprehends to be the dictates of the personal law applicable to him," the bench, also comprising justices Ranjan Gogoi and Shiva Kriti Singh, said.

The Bench said the Act is an enabling legislation that gives

a prospective parent the option of adopting an eligible child by following due procedure.

"At the cost of repetition we would like to say that an optional legislation that does not contain an unavoidable imperative cannot be stultified by principles of personal law which, however, would always continue to govern any person who chooses to so submit himself until such time that the vision of a uniform Civil Code is achieved.

"The same can only happen by the collective decision of the generation(s) to come to sink conflicting faiths and beliefs that are still active as on date," Justice Gogoi, who wrote the judgment, said.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, February 20, 2014, P.1+12
(Child Adoption-Muslim Community/ JJ Act)

Muslims can adopt child under juvenile justice law: Supreme Court

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has held that the Muslims can adopt a child under the Juvenile Justice Act even if their personal law is against such adoption.

Giving this ruling disposing of a writ petition filed by Shabnam Hashmi, social activist, a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice P. Sathasivam and Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Shiva Kirti Singh said the JJ Act, 2000, as amended, is an enabling legislation that gives a prospective parent the option of adopting an eligible child by following the procedure prescribed by the Act, Rules and the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) guidelines.

Writing the judgment Justice Gogoi said, the JJ Act was a secular legislation applicable to all religions and com-

munities. The Bench said "the Act does not mandate any compulsive action by any prospective parent leaving such person with the liberty of accessing the provisions of the Act, if he so desires. Such a person is always free to adopt or choose not to do so and, instead, follow what he comprehends to be the dictates of the personal law applicable to him. To us, the Act is a small step in reaching the goal enshrined by Article 44 of the Constitution."

The Bench said "Personal beliefs and faiths, though must be honoured, cannot dictate the operation of the provisions of an enabling statute. At the cost of repetition we would like to say that an optional legislation that does not contain an unavoidable imperative cannot be stultified by principles of personal law which, however, would al-

ways continue to govern any person who chooses to submit himself until such time that the vision of a uniform Civil Code is achieved. The same can only happen by the collective decision of the generation(s) to come to sink conflicting faiths and beliefs that are still active as on date."

The petitioner prayed for a declaration that the right of a child to be adopted and that of the prospective parents to adopt be declared a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. It was contended by the Muslim Personal Board that "Islamic Law does not recognise an adopted child to be at par with a biological child."

Declining to accept her plea for recognising the right as a fundamental right the Bench said "the legislature which is better equipped to comprehend the mental prepared-

ness of the entire citizenry to think unitedly on the issue has expressed its view, for the present, by the enactment of the JJ Act 2000 and the same must receive due respect. Conflicting viewpoints prevailing between different communities, as on date, on the subject makes the vision contemplated by Article 44 of the Constitution i.e. a Uniform Civil Code a goal yet to be fully reached and the Court is reminded of the anxiety expressed by it earlier with regard to the necessity to maintain restraint. All these impel us to take the view that the present is not an appropriate time and stage where the right to adopt and the right to be adopted can be raised to the status of a fundamental right and/or to understand such a right to be encompassed by Article 21 of the Constitution."

The Hindu, February 21, 2014, P.5 (Child Adoption / JJ Act)

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने साफ की कानूनी स्थिति, मुस्लिम पर्सनल लॉ बोर्ड की दलीलें खारिज

मुस्लिम दंपति भी गोद ले सकते हैं बच्चा

■ जागरण न्यूज़, नई दिल्ली

निसंतान मुस्लिम दंपति भी बच्चा गोद ले सकते हैं। मुस्लिम पर्सनल लॉ उनके आड़े नहीं आएगा। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बच्चा गोद लेने के जुवेनाइल जस्टिस कानून के प्रावधानों की व्याख्या करते हुए अपने फैसले में कानूनी स्थिति साफ की है। कोर्ट ने कहा, विधायिका ने सभी नागरिकों के बारे में सोचने समझने के बाद जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट बनाया है, उसका सम्मान होना चाहिए। हालांकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कानून, पर्सनल लॉ और धार्मिक विश्वास में मत भिन्नता होने के कारण गोद लेने के अधिकार को मौलिक अधिकार घोषित करने से मना कर दिया है।

मुख्य न्यायाधीश पी सतशिवम, न्यायमूर्ति रंजन गोगोई व न्यायमूर्ति शिवकीर्ति सिंह की पीठ ने समाजसेविका शबनम हाशमी की याचिका का निपटारा करते हुए यह फैसला सुनाया है। याचिका में सभी धर्मों व जातियों को बच्चा गोद लेने का हक दिए जाने की मांग की गई थी। कोर्ट ने फैसले में कहा है कि जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट की धारा 41 में सभी धर्मों व जातियों के लोगों को समान रूप से बच्चा गोद लेने का हक दिया गया है। ज्यादातर राज्यों ने कानून व सेंटर एडॉप्शन रिसोर्स एजेंसी (कारा) के निर्देश को लागू कर रखा है।

कोर्ट ने मुस्लिम पर्सनल लॉ बोर्ड की दलीलें खारिज करते हुए कहा कि जुवेनाइल जस्टिस कानून गोद लेने का हक देने वाला एक सकारात्मक कानून है। कानून में कोई बाधकता नहीं है। बच्चा गोद लेने वाले माता-पिता ऐसा करने और न करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं। वे चाहें तो अपने पर्सनल लॉ की मान्यताओं का पालन कर सकते हैं। कोर्ट ने कहा है कि कानून सिर्फ संविधान के अनुच्छेद 44 (नागरिकों के लिए समान नागरिक संहिता (यूनीफार्म सिविल कोड)) की तरफ बढ़ाया गया एक छोटा सा कदम है। निजी विश्वास और धार्मिक मान्यताओं का अवश्य ही सम्मान किया जाना चाहिए लेकिन ये कानून के प्रावधानों पर हवी नहीं हो सकती।

कोर्ट ने कहा कि एक वैकल्पिक कानून (जिसे मानने की बाध्यता न हो) को पर्सनल लॉ के सिद्धांतों को व्यर्थ करने वाला नहीं कहा जा सकता। जबतक हम यूनीफार्म सिविल कोड के लक्ष्य को नहीं प्राप्त कर लेते तब तक जो व्यक्ति उसे मानता है उस पर वह लागू होगा। यह याचिका वर्ष 2005 में दाखिल की गई थी। उस समय हिंदुओं के अलावा अन्य धर्मों को मानने वाले अगर बच्चा गोद लेते थे तो उन्हें माता पिता का दर्जा नहीं मिलता था बल्कि संरक्षक का दर्जा मिलता था। शबनम हाशमी ने याचिका दाखिल कर अन्य धर्मों के लोगों को भी गोद लिए बच्चे के माता पिता का दर्जा दिए जाने की मांग की थी। याचिका के लंबित रहने के दौरान ही सरकार ने जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट में संशोधन किया और सभी धर्मों और जातियों को समान रूप से बच्चा गोद लेने का हक दिया, पर मामले में सुनवाई के दौरान आल इंडिया मुस्लिम पर्सनल ला बोर्ड ने अर्जी दाखिल कर मांग की थी कि कानून के तहत बच्चा गोद देने वाली सरकारी कमेटीयों को निर्देश दिया जाए कि मुस्लिम बच्चे को गोद देते समय इस्लामी कानून का ध्यान रखें, क्योंकि मुस्लिम पर्सनल लॉ गोद लिए बच्चे को जन्म दिए गए बच्चे के समान नहीं मानता। (पेज भी देखें)

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Dainik Jagran (H), February 20, 2014, P.1

SEVERAL LAWS IN TEN YEARS TO STRENGTHEN THE SAFETY OF WOMEN

- Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to provide stringent punishment for sexual offences against women
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 passed
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act passed and Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill introduced in Parliament

भारत
निर्माण के
प्रमाण

REACHING PEOPLE, CHANGING LIVES.

The Hindu, February 17, 2014, P.3
(Several Laws—Safety of Women)

5.4 Budget Allocation/Funding (Nirbhaya Fund /Honorarium-ASHA/MDM Workers/ Budget Allocation-Bihar Govt./ Fund Allocation- MSNP/ NRP/ NRLM/ Fund-Kanyashree Yojana)

Sops likely for Asha, anganwadi, workers
Ajith Athrady

NEW DELHI: Showering riches to attract voters in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections, the UPA government is set to hike honorarium to Asha, anganwadi and mid-day meal workers.

The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, is likely to take up the issue this week. Though the exact quantum of hike is not known, sources told *Deccan Herald* that it will be substantial. The Ministry of Women and Child Development had proposed that the anganwadi workers should get an additional honorarium of around Rs 500 per month, while helpers and assistants should get Rs 300 more.

At present, the anganwadi workers are paid between Rs 2,938 and Rs 3,063 per month, depending on their service, while helpers get Rs 1,500. There are around 12.7 lakh anganwadi workers and 11.6 lakh helpers in 13.39 lakh centres in the country.

In a bid to provide social security benefits to these workers, the government may extend out-patient benefits under its Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) scheme, which at present offers hospitalisation benefits up to Rs 30,000 a year to each household.

RSBY was initially meant only for households below the poverty line, but it was extended to construction workers, street vendors, beedi workers, domestic and MGNREGS workers, sanitation and mine workers, rag pickers and rickshaw pullers.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald,
February 5, 2014, P.8
(Honorarium-ASHA/
MDM Workers)

Nirbhaya Fund gets ₹1,000 crore
TEAM TOI

Keeping women voters in mind, finance minister P Chidambaram allocated an additional Rs 1,000 crore to the Nirbhaya Fund created for safer cities and towns, increasing the total funds available for such projects to Rs 2,000 crore.

Chidambaram said that so far two projects — GPS tracking of vehicles and SOS button on mobile phones for emergency response in distress — had been cleared under this scheme.

However, the slow pace of approvals (Cabinet approved the projects only in December 2013) has meant no spending and, therefore, little perceptible difference in the safety and security of women in the country. The first project would map routes of public transport vehicles and highlight violations through visual and text signals in all million-plus cities. A round-the-clock emergency response unit will also track people in distress using a GPS.

The second project will establish an integrated computer platform to respond to calls from women in distress. Under this scheme, women can seek help of police using a "panic" button or an application on their mobile phones, following which emergency response units will be dispatched.

The Times of India,
February 18, 2014, P.15

BIHAR Distribution of free sanitary napkins to nearly 31 lakh school girls from April

Health, education of girl child focus of Nitish's budget

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, FEBRUARY 17

ON THE sidelines of the interim budget presented by the Centre, the Bihar government on Monday presented its 2014-15 budget, giving education top priority by allocating Rs 24,715 crore to the sector.

One of the highlights was distribution of free sanitary napkins to over 31 lakh school girls from April, which was announced earlier.

On behalf of CM Nitish Kumar who holds the finance portfolio, minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary presented the budget amid disruptions from Opposition MLAs from the BJP. Power sector got an allocation of Rs 6,354 crore, health Rs 4,805 crore and road construction Rs 4,898 crore. The agriculture department was allocated Rs 2,826 crore.

Giving accordance to hygiene of girl children was one of the priorities of the government and the announcement of distribution of sanitary napkins to over 31 lakh girls from class VI to class XII had been made earlier.

Principal secretary, Bihar human resource department Amarjeet Sinha said: "Though we had been discussing it for some time, we decided to introduce distribution of sanitary napkins to ensure health and hygiene of girls, most of them living in rural areas".

Sinha said it would cost Rs 32 crore per year. "We have started training volunteers on interacting with girls, especially from rural areas where there is poor health awareness. If necessary, women representatives from villages and mothers can be approached for suggestions," said Sinha.

Bihar Women's Commission member Chandramukhi Devi said: "It is a welcome move. School administration should ensure the scheme is well implemented. I hope the move creates more health awareness."

FACT SHEET

Rs 24,715 cr
Total money allocated to the education sector

POWER Rs 6,354 cr	ROADS Rs 4,898 cr
HEALTH Rs 4,805 cr	AGRICULTURE Rs 2,826 cr

The Indian Express, February 18, 2014, P.6
(Budget Allocation-Bihar Govt.)

Emergency response

Centre announces second project under Nirbhaya fund

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday cleared the second project under the Rs 1,000-crore Nirbhaya Fund for establishing an integrated computer platform to respond to calls from women in distress.

Women can seek help of police using a "panic" button or an application on their mobile phones, following which Emergency Response (ER) units will be dispatched.

The ambitious scheme will establish an Integrated Computer Aided Dispatch platform. It will be completed in the next nine months in 114 cities at a cost of Rs 321.69 crore. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of the Home Ministry, an official statement said.


The first scheme to be cleared under the Nirbhaya Fund, which involved mapping routes of public vehicles, tracking vehicles on the road and highlighting violations through visual and text signals among others. Under the second scheme, a 24x7 Emergency Response unit will be able to track the people in distress using a Geographical Positioning System or Geographical Information System.

"Distress or emergency alarms generated by panic buttons, landlines or mobiles through individual devices pioneered by the Department of Information Technology or mobile phone applications would be tracked and ER units will be dispatched to attend the call," the statement said.

The key objectives of the scheme include providing a 24x7 helpline service to women in distress and an efficient and effective response system to attend their calls, besides alarms for medical and disaster services by other responders in an integrated manner. Handling of emergencies of children and other vulnerable sections of the society and speedy assistance to helpless women and children, who face violence like eve teasing, dowry demands, sexual assault, molestation or any other abuse either in public or at home also form a part of the scheme. The project involves setting up of city-wise hi-tech control rooms to cover 114 cities and districts in different states and Union Territories, including 71 cities having a population of more than a million or which are headquarters of states as well as headquarters of 41 highly crime-prone districts.

"The 71 cities would cover a population of over 231.23 million and the 43 districts would cover a population of 160.27 million, that is a total coverage of 32.6 percent of the country," it said.

DH News Service



Deccan Herald, February 16, 2014, P.14 (Nirbhaya Fund)

Govt subsidizes loans for women SHGs

BY ELIZABETH ROCHE
elizabeth.r@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the general elections expected in April-May, the Congress party-led government on Monday announced the implementation of a budget promise to provide loans to rural women self-help groups (SHGs) at rates on a par with loans extended to farmers.

Rural development minister Jairam Ramesh, who made the announcement at a press conference in New Delhi, also said the Congress party-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government was considering changes to the national rural employment guarantee Act to bring minimum wages paid under the flagship programme on a par with the minimum wages fixed by state governments for agricultural labour.

Rolling out the ₹1,400 crore interest subvention on loans taken by SHGs, a key initiative under the UPA's ambitious National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Ramesh said a low lending rate of 7% will be applicable for loans of up to ₹3 lakh availed by women's SHGs from 1 April 2013 in 150 of India's 640 districts. These districts were chosen on the basis of those in the grip of Maoist insurgency, poverty and backwardness, the minister said.

SHGs that repay loans on time will pay 4% interest, the minister said.

"In (the financial year) 2013-14, total budgetary allocation for the NRLM is ₹2,600 crore. Out of ₹2,600 crore, we are spending ₹650 crore for subsidising

Cheaper credit: SHGs that repay loans on time will pay 4% interest, Ramesh said.

interest rate in 150 districts and we are spending ₹750 crore to subsidise the interest rates in the other districts," Ramesh said.

"So out of ₹2,600 crore budgetary allocation for NRLM, ₹1,400 crore is the total allocation for subsidising interest rates. That is all coming from the ministry of rural development. It is not the favour being done to us by the finance ministry," he added.

The NRLM has set a target of covering 70 million rural poor households across all the 250,000 gram panchayats or village councils through 6-7 million SHGs and federated institutions of rural poor women in a period of eight-10 years, and provide support to help them come out of poverty.

On the issue of parity of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-

REGS) and the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, Ramesh said the rural development ministry was of the view that there should not be any disparity between the two. Separately, the MGNREGS wage rate that was already linked to the consumer price index for agricultural labour, will be increased from 1 April this year, the minister said.

He conceded that in 14 states, including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Rajasthan, there was a mismatch between the minimum wage paid to unskilled agricultural labour and the wage set by the Centre to be paid under MGNREGS. "There should be one minimum wage and if under MGNREGS the wage is low then it should be brought on par with the minimum wage set by the states," he said. "We will have to modify the MGNREGS Act; without this, it (parity in wages) won't be possible."

The Karnataka high court in 2011 ruled that the Centre was liable to pay higher wages under the rural employment programme in tandem with that of the state's minimum wage rate. The Centre appealed against the order in the Supreme Court but it upheld the high court order in 2012.

Ramesh said the Central and state governments need to have consultations to settle the matter as "there is also this fear that in one year, a state government revises minimum wages three or four times then it will affect the Central government's budget." He was referring to apprehensions expressed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former finance minister Pranab Mukherjee on the matter.

Mint, February 4, 2014, P.11

(Budget Allocation- NRLM)

बहुक्षेत्रीय पोषण कार्यक्रम का शुभारम्भ

लो पंचायत, नई दिल्ली

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ ने राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस के अवसर पर बालिकाओं के लिए बहुक्षेत्रीय पोषण कार्यक्रम (एमएसएनपी) और राष्ट्रीय संसाधन प्लेटफार्म (एनआरपी) का शुभारम्भ किया। 12वीं योजना अवधि में इसके लिए 1213 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि अनुमोदित की गई है जिसमें से 75 प्रतिशत अर्थात् 944 करोड़ रुपये केन्द्र सरकार वहन करेगी। इस वर्ष के बालिका दिवस का मुख्य विषय "बालिकाओं की सुरक्षा और विकास रखा गया है।"

इस अवसर पर श्रीमती तीरथ ने कहा कि बहुक्षेत्रीय पोषण कार्यक्रम 19 राज्यों के 200 जिलों में कार्यान्वित किया जायेगा। उनमें से 100 जिलों में इस कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत वर्तमान वित्त वर्ष में ही हो जायेगी। इस कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन से बालिकाओं के समग्र उत्थान और विकास संबंधी बहुक्षेत्रीय नियोजन, नीतियां और कार्रवाई की रणनीति बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।

पृष्ठ 20 का शेष

उन्होंने कहा कि शून्य से छह वर्ष तक के आयु वर्ग में बालिकाओं का अनुपात प्रति हजार 2001 के 927 से घटकर 2011 में 919 पर पहुंच गया है। इससे पता लगता है कि एक ही दशक में लाखों बालिकाएं अपने जन्म से ही वंचित रही। दूरारी और देश में बाल विवाह की कुपथा अभी भी जारी है। एक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार 20 से 24 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग में 47 प्रतिशत महिलाएं ऐसी पायी गयी हैं जिनका विवाह 18 वर्ष की आयु से पहले ही हो गया था।

श्रीमती तीरथ ने कहा कि पोषण संसाधन प्लेटफार्म (एनआरपी) एक कंप्यूटर नेटवर्क आधारित प्लेटफार्म होगा, जहां बालिकाओं से संबंधित विभिन्न तरह की आवश्यक जानकारी

शेष पृष्ठ...08 पर

उपलब्ध हो सकेगी। यह प्लेटफार्म राष्ट्रीय जन सहयोग एवं बाल विकास संस्थान (एनआईपीसीसीडी) कार्यान्वित करेगा।

इस कार्य में खाद्य एवं पोषण बोर्ड तथा राष्ट्रीय सूचना केन्द्र (एनआईसी) इस संस्थान की मदद करेंगे। श्री तीरथ ने कहा कि सरकार बालिकाओं के कल्याण के लिए बहुआयामी रणनीति पर कार्य कर रही है, ताकि बालिकाओं के प्रति समाज के दृष्टिकोण में बदलाव लाया जा सके।

इस रणनीति में समुचित कानूनी प्रावधान करना, बालिकाओं की उपेक्षा की रोकथाम के उपाय करना और समुचित कार्यक्रम बनाना शामिल है। उन्होंने बताया कि 'सबला' कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत एनआईपीसीसीडी एक करोड़ महिलाओं को अहिंसावादी दूत के रूप में प्रशिक्षित करेगा।

इस अवसर पर महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय के सचिव श्री ए.के. जैन ने कहा कि सरकार

बालिकाओं को एक राष्ट्रीय संसाधन के रूप में विकसित करना चाहती है। बालिकाओं के कुपोषण की शुरुआत उनके जन्म से पहले ही हो जाती है और उनके अल्पवयस्क होने तथा बाद में माता बन जाने के बाद भी जारी रहती है। स्वर्गीय श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी 24 जनवरी को देश की पहली महिला प्रधानमंत्री बनी थी। उसी दिन की स्मृति में इस तिथि को राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस के रूप में बनाया जाता है।

Lok Panchayat (H), February-
March, 2014, P.8+20

(Fund Allocation-MSNP/NRP)

कन्याश्री योजना: 417 करोड़ रुपए आवंटित

15 लाख को होगा लाभ
विधानसभा में बोली नारी
व शिशु विकास मंत्री

कोलकाता, पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार पंद्रह लाख से अधिक कन्याओं को कन्याश्री योजना (सालाना छात्रवृत्ति) का लाभ दिलाने का लक्ष्य लेकर चल रही है। उक्त योजना के तहत एक लाख 30 हजार युवतियों को एककालीन अनुदान दिया जाएगा।

राज्य की नारी व शिशु विकास विभाग मंत्री डॉ. शशि पांजा ने बुधवार को विधानसभा में प्रश्नकाल में यह जानकारी दी। तृणमूल सदस्य निर्मल घोष के सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने बताया कि 31 दिसम्बर 2013 तक राज्य में कन्याश्री योजना के तहत सालाना छात्रवृत्ति के लिए 4 लाख 62 हजार 880 छात्राओं तथा एककालीन अनुदान के लिए 19 हजार 693 युवतियों के नाम पंजीकृत किए गए। डॉ. पांजा ने सदन

को बताया कि सरकार ने चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान 417 करोड़ रुपए खर्च करने का निर्णय किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल विवाह रोकना तथा ग्रामिक स्कूलों से ड्रॉप आउट कम करना सरकार का लक्ष्य है।

Rajasthan Patrika (H),
February 13, 2014, P.10
(Fund-Kanyashree Yojana)

महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए निर्भया कोष

वित्त मंत्रालय ने विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के तीन प्रस्तावों को सिद्धांत रूप में दी स्वीकृति

लॉ. प. ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली
केंद्र सरकार ने महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए घोषित निर्भया कोष की योजना को अमली जामा पहनाना शुरू कर दिया है। सरकार ने घोषणा की थी कि एक हजार करोड़ के इस कोष से महिलाओं की सुरक्षा और स्वावलंबन के लिए इस कोष का इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। एक हजार करोड़ रुपये की यह राशि केवल पहली पूरक अनुदान मांगों के दौरान ही हस्तांतरित की जाएगी। संसद ने इसके लिए विनियोग विधेयक पास किया था और बाद में इसे राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति मिली थी। इसके लिए महिलाओं की सलामती और सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए संबद्ध मंत्रालयों, विभागों से कोष के संसाधनों के उपयोग के लिए प्रस्ताव तैयार करने का अनुरोध किया गया था। कई बार हुए परामर्शों के बाद वित्त मंत्रालय ने तीन प्रस्तावों का सिद्धांत रूप में अनुमोदन कर दिया है, जिनका विवरण नीचे दिया गया है।

1. सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के साथ परामर्श के बाद गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा तैयार किया गया प्रस्ताव: पुलिस प्रशासन का मोबाइल फोन नेटवर्क के साथ एकीकरण, ताकि विपदा फोन कॉलों पर कम से कम समय में पता लगाया जा सके और कार्यवाही की जा सके। सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय सभी मोबाइल फोन विनिर्माताओं को निर्देश जारी करेगा कि वे सभी हैंडसेटों में अनिवार्य रूप से एक एसओएस अलर्ट बटन लगाएं। विनिर्माताओं से यह भी कहा जाएगा कि वे उपयुक्त सॉफ्टवेयर के जरिये वर्तमान हैंडसेटों में भी एसओएस अलर्ट प्रणाली शुरू करें, जिसे उपभोक्ता नि:शुल्क डाउनलोड कर सकें।

इस योजना को 157 शहरों में दो चरणों (पहले चरण में 55 शहरों और दूसरे चरण में 102 शहरों) में लागू किया जाएगा। इसका अनुमानित बजट एक हजार करोड़ रुपये होगा। गृह मंत्रालय इसके लिए कैबिनेट नोट भेजेगा। सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग इस संदर्भ में पहले ही दो परियोजनाओं की शुरुआत कर चुका है। पहली परियोजना है— सी-डीएसी (त्रिवेन्द्रम) द्वारा एक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा प्रणाली को प्रायोगिक तौर पर जारी करना। इसमें विपदाग्रस्त महिलाओं की सहायता के लिए एक संपूर्ण इको प्रणाली की व्यवस्था है और इसका जयपुर पुलिस नियंत्रण कक्ष में उपयोग किया जा रहा है। दूसरी परियोजना है— उचित मूल्य के एक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सुरक्षा उपकरण का डिजाइन और विकास। आईआईटी, दिल्ली एक हाथ घड़ी के रूप में व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा उपकरण के विकास की परियोजना पर काम कर रहा है। इस बारे में गृह मंत्रालय और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय द्वारा कार्यवाही की जाएगी।

2. सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय का प्रस्ताव: देश में सड़क वाहनों में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा की एक योजना तैयार की गई है, जिसे 10 लाख से अधिक की आबादी वाले 32 शहरों में अगले दो वर्षों में लागू किया जाएगा। इस योजना की मुख्य बातें हैं—

क. सार्वजनिक परिवहन के वाहनों में अनिवार्य रूप से जीपीएस (ग्लोबल पोजिशनिंग सिस्टम) की व्यवस्था। परमिट के लिए यह

आवश्यक शर्त होनी चाहिए।

ख. सार्वजनिक परिवहन के वाहनों की स्थिति का पता लगाने के लिए 10 लाख से अधिक आबादी वाले हर शहर में नियंत्रण कक्ष।

ग. सार्वजनिक परिवहन की बसों में सीसीटीवी की व्यवस्था।

घ. स्मार्ट फोन के माध्यम से यात्री सूचना प्रणाली, बस स्टॉपों पर सूचना प्रदर्शन की व्यवस्था आदि।

ड. परिवहन वाहनों में आईवीआर, संदेश और ई-मेल आधारित शिकायत प्रणाली।

च. प्रत्येक सार्वजनिक परिवहन के वाहन और चालक की जांच और निरंतर समीक्षा।

छ. परिवहन विभाग में महिला प्रवर्तन शाखा।

ज. अधिक संख्या में महिला चालक और कंडक्टर— प्रशिक्षण और लाइसेंसिंग।

झ. जागरूकता अभियान।

झ. इसका अनुमानित बजट इसके लिए कैबिनेट नोट तैयार किया जा रहा है। इस बारे में कार्यवाही सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय द्वारा की जाएगी।

3. रेल मंत्रालय का प्रस्ताव: कुछ विशेष क्षेत्रों में रेल गाड़ियों में एसओएस अलर्ट प्रणाली की स्थापना के लिए एक प्रायोगिक योजना। रेलवे की हेल्पलाइन प्रणाली की मुख्य बातें इस प्रकार होंगी—

क. इस व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत मोबाइल और लैंडलाइन नेटवर्क के सभी दूरसंचार सर्किटों के मोबाइल सेवा प्रदाता होंगे।

ख. कॉल रिकार्ड करने यानि यात्रियों और कॉल सेंटर के एजेंटों के बीच बातचीत को रिकार्ड करने की व्यवस्था।

ग. एसएमएस सेवा के लिए उपकरणों में उन्नयन, अनुकूलन की व्यवस्था।

घ. शुरू में प्रस्तावित कॉल सेंटर अंग्रेजी और हिंदी भाषाओं में कार्य करेगा, लेकिन प्रणाली का उन्नयन करके इसमें केंद्रीकृत कॉल सेंटर से प्राप्त कॉलों को क्षेत्रीय कॉल सेंटरों को हस्तांतरित करने की व्यवस्था होगी।

25 अक्टूबर 2013 को यह कार्य रेलवे सूचना प्रणाली केंद्र को सौंपा गया था, जो 13 महीनों में मध्य रेलवे और पश्चिमी रेलवे में प्रायोगिक परियोजनाओं का कार्य पूरा करेगा।

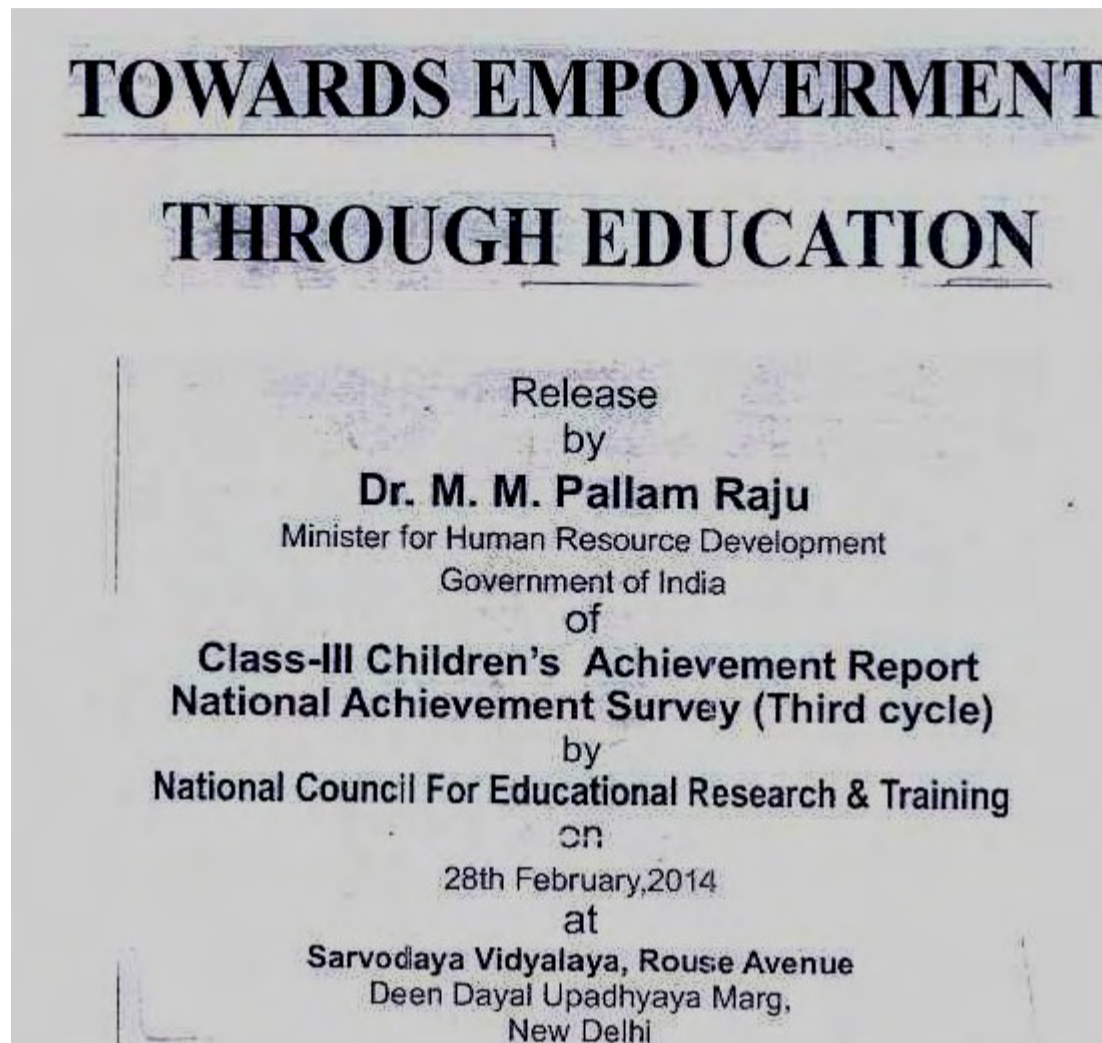
अखिल भारतीय आधार पर योजना को लागू करने के लिए लगभग 25.17 करोड़ रुपये की आवश्यकता होगी। रेल मंत्रालय ने फिलहाल इसके लिए कोई राशि नहीं मांगी है। इस संबंध में कार्यवाही रेल मंत्रालय द्वारा की जाएगी।

उपरोक्त तीन योजनाओं के अलावा महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने बताया है कि वह संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों की पहचान करने, कार्यवाही केंद्रों की स्थापना करने और 10 लाख से अधिक आबादी वाले उपरोक्त 32 शहरों में महिलाओं की सलामती और सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करने की एक योजना तैयार कर रहा है। इस संबंध में कैबिनेट नोट पर विभिन्न पक्षों की राय ली जा रही है।

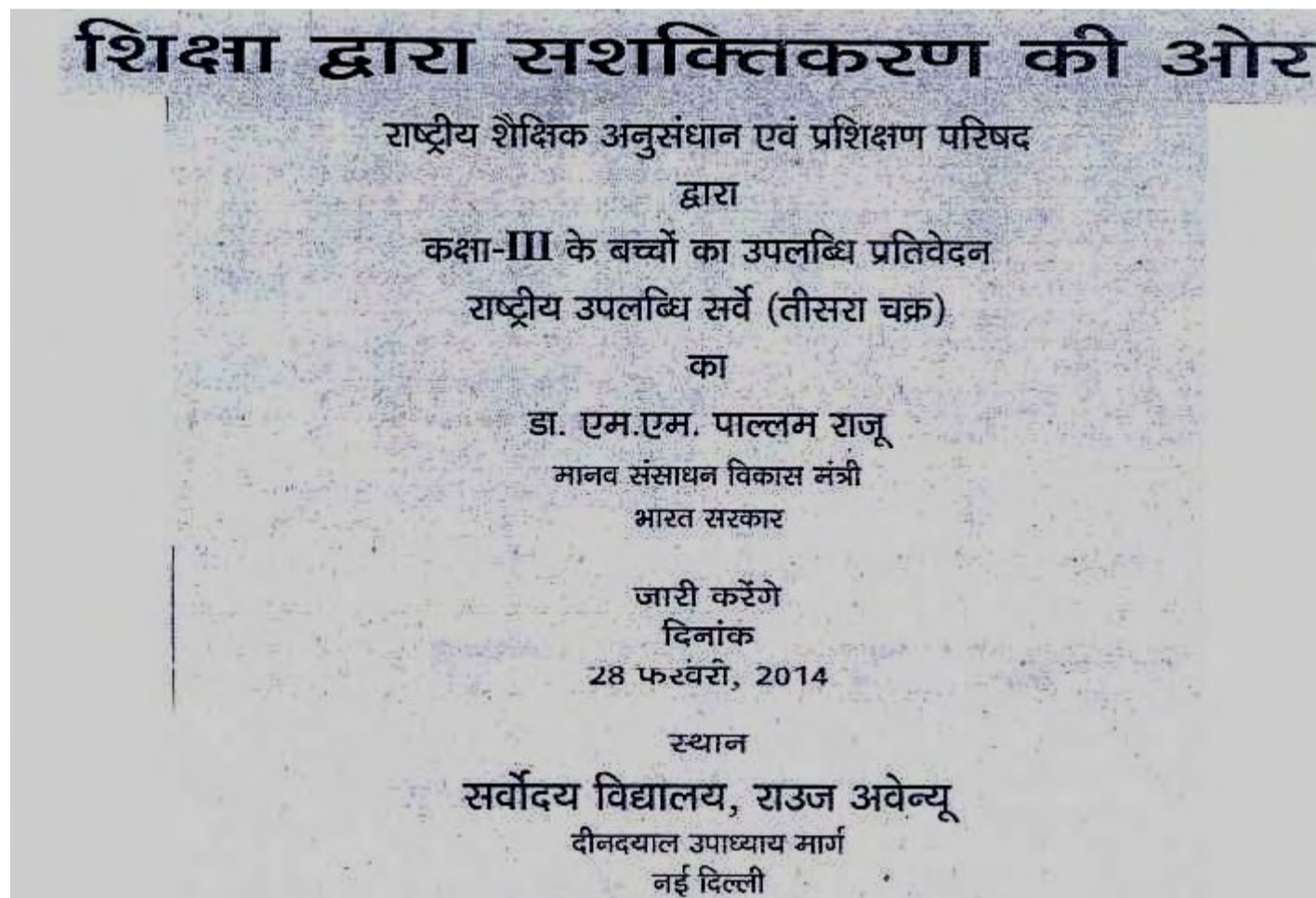
जिस बजट राशि का ऊपर जिक्र किया गया है, उसकी अगले कुछ समय तक आवश्यकता होगी। कैबिनेट की स्वीकृति के बाद प्रस्तावों के लिए एक हजार करोड़ रुपये के कोष से सहायता दी जाएगी और उम्मीद है कि सरकार द्वारा समय-समय पर इस राशि को बढ़ाया जाएगा।

Lok Panchayat (H), February- March, 2014, P.12
(Nirbhya Fund)

5.5 Schemes/Programme -Miscellaneous issues (Children's Achievement Report/ National AIDS Control Programme/ National Anganwadi Workers Awards/ Policies/Scheme-MWCD)



The Times of India, February 28, 2014, P.21
(*Children's Achievement Report*)




Dainik Jagran (H), February 28, 2014, P.13

Department of AIDS Control

Key Achievements of National AIDS Control Programme:


- New HIV infections among adult population have reduced by an estimated 57% (2.74 lakh in 2000 to 1.16 lakh in 2011).
- HIV prevalence has reduced among female sex workers at the national level (5.06% in 2007 to 2.67% in 2011) and among men who have sex with men (7.41% in 2007 to 4.43% in 2011).
- To promote safe sex practices, the overall condom distribution increased from 180 crore to 300 crore during Phase III of the Programme.
- 7.34 lakh people living with HIV/AIDS are receiving free Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) in health facilities and 7224 persons have been given 2nd line ART.
- Wider access to ART has led to 29% reduction in estimated annual AIDS related deaths during 2007 - 2011.
- 187.49 lakh persons including 82.94 lakh pregnant women were provided HIV counselling and testing services at the Integrated Counselling & Testing Centres (ICTC) during 2012-13.
- 57.9 lakh episodes of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) have been treated through 1,136 designated STI/RTI clinics during 2013-14 (till November 2013).
- Availability of safe blood increased from 44 lakh units in 2007 to 98 lakh units by 2012-13. During the same period, HIV seroreactivity declined from 1.2% to 0.2%.
- To expand the reach of prevention and treatment services, Memorandums of Understanding have been signed with various Ministries/Departments of Government of India.
- Three phases of Red Ribbon Express reached out to 2.57 crore people. And folk media campaign reached out to 2.64 crore people during 2011-12 and 2012-13 spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS.

Halting and Reversing the HIV Epidemic in India



India's voice against AIDS
 Department of AIDS Control
 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
 Government of India
www.naco.gov.in

The Indian Express, February 7, 2014, P.5
 (National AIDS Control Programme)



**Conferment of
National Anganwadi Workers'
Awards**
For Exceptional Achievement during 2006-07 to 2010-11
by
Smt. Krishna Tirath
Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge)
Ministry of Women & Child Development
At
Rajiv Gandhi sports stadium, Bawana, New Delhi
on 27th February 2014 at 11.30 a.m.

- Introduced national awards in 2000-01 to motivate the anganwadi workers and give them public recognition
- Anganwadi workers are the frontline workers under ICDS Scheme
- Annually, there is a provision for 51 national level awards
- Each award carries a cash prize for Rs. 25,000/- and a certificate

- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme restructured and strengthened for nurturing children through a network of 13.40 lakh Anganwadis
- At present, 1032 lakh beneficiaries comprising 841 lakh children (6 months to 6 years) and 191 lakhs pregnant women & lactating mothers are receiving supplementary nutrition at Anganwadis
- Currently, 349 lakh children (3-6 years) attend pre-school education at Anganwadis

Ministry of Women & Child Development
www.wcd.nic.in

Hindustan Times, February 27, 2014, P.5
(National Anganwadi Workers Awards)

सत्यमेव जयते
भारत सरकार

नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

Ensuring Development of Children
-Accelerating Progress

- ▶ Framed New National Policy on Children in 2013 with rights based approach to ensure survival, health, development and protection of all children.
- ▶ Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) launched in 2009 to meet the needs of children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.
- ▶ Revised and restructured Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) for nurturing children through network of Anganwadis.
- ▶ Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy announced and Anganwadi to become vibrant hub of early childhood care and education.
- ▶ Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) enacted in 2012 to ensure safe environment for holistic development of children.

Smt. Krishna Tirath
Hon' ble Minister of State (Independent Charge)
Ministry of Women & Child Development

**Ministry of Women and Child
Development**
www.wcd.nic.in

Hindustan Times, February 15, 2014, P.11
(Policies/Scheme-MWCD)

SAMA JWADI PENSION SCHEME

Not only a Pension Scheme, but also an Initiative for Social Security

- The scheme aims at ensuring benefit to such poor families who have been beyond the reach of any scheme.
- The scheme will benefit 40 lakh poor families.
- A pension of Rs. 500 per month.
- Pension will be directly transferred to bank account through e-payment.
- The woman head of the family will be made beneficiary. In the absence of the woman head, the male head of the family will be appointed as the beneficiary.
- The country's first pension scheme directly linked to the promotion of education and health.
- On fulfillment of the norms related to education, literacy and health, an annual increment of Rs. 50 in the amount of the monthly pension every year.

Along with the economic assistance in shape of pension, the facilities related to education, literacy and health will also be available to the benefitted families:

- Facility of Anganbari to the children in the age group of 0-6 years.
- Facility of enrolment in the school to the children in the age group of 6-14 years.
- Facility of regular vaccination to the children in the age group of 0-6 years.

- Provision for making literate every illiterate over 15 years of age.
- Health checkup of every child in the age group of 6-14 years in the school once a year.
- Facility of institutionalized delivery to the expectants women.
- Free Skill Development training to the willing members in the age group of 14-35 years.
- Health Insurance Card on priority under the health insurance scheme.
- On availing above-mentioned facilities, the maximum pension limit would be Rs. 750 per month with an increment of Rs. 50 per year to the monthly pension amount.

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(*Samajwadi Pension Scheme*)

Guidelines for Implementation of the 'Samajwadi Pension Scheme'

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

This scheme is being launched for socio-economic development of the poor families identified in the state. A fixed monthly amount in shape of economic assistance will be made available regularly to the head of every family being benefitted under the scheme, but the head of the family being benefitted shall also have to concede to certain conditions regarding education, literacy and health. These conditions are:

- If the benefitted family has boys and girls in the age group of 6-14 years, they have to be compulsorily enrolled in school.
- The children enrolled thus must attend the school regularly.
- After receipt of pension, it will be mandatory for every illiterate member of over 15 years of age in the benefitted family to make himself/herself literate by regularly participating in the literacy mission programme, if it is under implementation in his/her village/urban body.
- It will be mandatory to get regularly vaccinated all the children below the age of 5 years in the benefitted family.
- It will be a must to get examined the health of every child in the age group of 6-14 years in the benefitted family once a year through the health checkup camp to be held in the school.
- Institutionalized delivery of the expectant woman in the benefitted family will be compulsory.

These terms and conditions shall be assessed after receipt of pension to the beneficiary. The officers of the Basic Education and the Health Departments shall ensure that these services are available in an assured way to all the families selected under the 'Samajwadi Pension Scheme'.

- If there is a person in the age group of 14-35 years in the benefitted family and he is desirous of improving his/her skill, his/her skill must be improved by selecting him/her under the Skill Development Mission, so that a long lasting arrangement can be made for economic uplift of the family.

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