

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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<i>Amar Ujala</i>	<i>Free Press Journal</i>	<i>Pioneer</i>
<i>Asian Age</i>	<i>Hindu</i>	<i>Punjab Kesari</i>
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<i>Dainik Jagran (H)</i>	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	<i>Rashtriya Sahara (H)</i>
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<i>Deccan Herald</i>	<i>Jansatta (H)</i>	<i>Times of India</i>
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1. Child Welfare

1.1 Child Protection (*Missing Children/Child Rights/Crime against Children/Child Trafficking/Child Labour/Child Abuse/Street Children/Child Trafficking/Substance Abuse/Juvenile Delinquency/Poor Kids*)



Assam Tribune, May 2, 2013, P.4
(Child Rights)



Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 10, 2013, P.4
(Missing Children)

States go slow on panels for tackling crimes against minors

JAYA SHROFF BHALLA ■
NEW DELHI

From the brutal assault of a five-year-old girl in Delhi in April this year, to the assault and rape of five deaf and mute minors at an NGO in Rajasthan last week, incidences of crime against children in the country seem to be growing at an alarming pace. Despite this, States are in no hurry to set up State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR).

Only 14 States (50 per cent) have so far complied with the Ministry of Women and Child Development requests to set up SCPCR in accordance with the Section 17 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

"As no time limit is prescribed in the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act for setting up of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, so individual States are doing things at their own pace," said an official in the WCD Ministry.

"We have been sending regular reminders to States and Union Territories to set up these commissions at the earliest. In 2009, there were only four States that had State Commissions for Child Rights, now at least there are 14," said the official.

West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Assam have SCPCRs. Punjab and Jharkhand are also working towards forming their respective commissions.

CASES REGISTERED

Uttar Pradesh (5,500)
Madhya Pradesh (4,383)
Delhi (4,250)
Maharashtra (3,362)
Bihar (2,233)
Andhra Pradesh (2,213)



Looking at the increasing crime rate against minors, there definitely seems to be a need for more redressal avenues. Statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that a total of 33,098 cases of crimes against children were reported in the country during 2011 as compared to 26,694 cases during 2010, suggesting an increase of 24.0 per cent.

Cases under trafficking of minor girls increased from 679 in 2010 to 862 in 2011, registering an increase of 27.0 per

cent over 2010. Cases of kidnapping and abduction saw a rise of 34.2 per cent from 10,670 in 2010 to 15,284 in 2011. Uttar Pradesh (5,500), Madhya Pradesh (4,383), Delhi (4,250), Maharashtra (3,362), Bihar (2,233) and Andhra Pradesh (2,213) have accounted for 16.6, 13.2, 12.8, 6.7 and 6.7 per cent of total crimes respectively against children at the national level.

In the decade 2001-11, a staggering 48,338 cases of rape involving children were reported from across the country.

NCRB report showed that Madhya Pradesh topped the list of child abuse with 9,465 cases, followed by Maharashtra with 6,868 cases followed by UP (5,949) and Andhra Pradesh (3,977). Delhi with 2,909 cases is sixth on the list, which has data for 13 States.

Worse, there was a shocking 336 per cent increase in the number of reported cases of child rape in the decade, with the number of cases leaping from 2113 in 2001 to 7,112 in 2011.

Another report on child abuse by the Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR), said that the reality is likely to have been many times worse as only a small fraction of such cases are ever 'reported' and even fewer 'recorded' by the police.

WHAT POLICE MUST DO

Standing orders by Delhi Police commissioner on missing children

- > Once a minor's missing report is registered, SHO has to take action himself
- > In case of a girl, ACP and addl CP/DCP should monitor progress of the probe
- > SHO will personally lead the probe
- > Carry out search at local public toilets, schools, abandoned buildings, locked houses and other places, immediately after the complaint
- > Registration of a case is mandatory if child is below 16 years in case of boys and

18 years in case of girls. The case should be assigned to an officer not below ASI rank and lady officer should be entrusted with the probe in case of a girl

- > All-India wireless message should be flashed
- > Sufficient numbers of hue-and-cry notices containing photographs and physical description of missing child should be sent for publication and to police stations
- > Cases with ransom calls should be handled differently
- > Family liaison officer should guide the complainant and inform him about progress of the investigation

Times of India, May 6, 2013, P.2
(Missing Children)

Pioneer, May 23, 2013, P.6
(Crime against Children)

Submit report on steps to curb child trafficking, High Court tells police

ANEESHA MATHUR
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

THE Delhi and Orissa police on Wednesday were directed to submit their reply to the Delhi High Court, in a case relating to the trafficking of four girls from Orissa in 2010, after the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) told court that its proposal to curb child trafficking has not been implemented properly yet.

The body had given its recommendations last year, on the direction of the Delhi High Court. The NCPCR had pointed out that the source areas for abduction and trafficking of children needed to be targeted in a coordinated manner by various states. The NCPCR had said the police and Child Wel-

fare departments of the various states would need to work together to prevent child trafficking and to establish protocols for rescue, repatriation/restoration and rehabilitation of trafficked children.

During the hearing on Wednesday before the bench of Chief Justice D Murugesan and Justice Jayant Nath, the advocate for the NCPCR told the court that an important method to combat trafficking of children would be to implement the Right to Education Act, so that all children would be enrolled in schools, which would make it easier to ensure that any missing child would be reported immediately. "NCPCR had given a detailed roadmap to regulate the movement of children and stop trafficking, and the state of Orissa had been asked to respond by the

NCPCR HAD ALSO recommended keeping a check on placement agencies which would employ minors as domestic help

NCPCR, that affidavit has not been filed," NCPCR counsel Aparna Bhatt said.

The NCPCR had also recommended keeping a check on placement agencies, which would take minors from the rural areas and bring them to cities to work as domestic help, and then exploit them.

"Registration and tracking of movement of children from source and destination are critical tools to identify missing chil-

dren," says the NCPCR report filed before the court.

Delhi High Court has been monitoring the case since 2010, after the parents of a minor girl abducted from Orissa had moved a writ petition seeking the registration of an FIR.

The girl had been brought to Delhi by a placement agency with three other girls. Delhi Police had eventually traced three of the trafficked girls, who were found to have been physically and sexually abused. A fourth girl is still missing in the case. In February, the High Court had pulled up the police for laxity in the investigation.

Orissa and Delhi Police have now been directed to file affidavits detailing the work done in the two states with regard to the NCPCR recommendations by next week.

New Indian Express, May 9, 2013, P.3
(Child Trafficking)

Child labour: S. Delhi reveals its ugly side

SHOCKING A survey by CRY shows two out of 10 people in south Delhi would not hesitate to hire a child as young as 10 years

Mallica Joshi
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NEW DELHI: It may house some of the most affluent people in the city and lay claims of being the most socially-progressive district but two out of 10 people in south Delhi think that anyone over the age of 10 is not a child. This and many other surprising figures were thrown up by a survey of 1,575 employers conducted by NGO Child Rights and You (CRY) on the attitudes and beliefs about child labour.

According to the report, a number of respondents believed that only an individual under the age of 10 years is considered a child. This number was 12.8% in south west Delhi and 6.3% in New Delhi.

"These figures suggest that all these people would possibly have no hesitation in hiring a child as young as 10 years. Not only this, many people consider that a child should not only study, but work as well," the study read.

Around 18% respondents in New Delhi and 14% respondents in central Delhi responded that children should study as well as work simultaneously. 56%

SURVEY RESULTS

20% said that they considered an individual as a child only if he was below 10 years

56% people acknowledged that they had seen children who don't go to school

72% knew about the existence of a certain law against child labour in the country

42% felt that children were as efficient as adults in carrying out any activity

30% said that children (below 18 years) should be paid less than adults

of the respondents said they know of children in their locality who do not go to school, while more than 70% said that those children who do not go to school are working to earn a living.

About half of the city's population believes that children can work as much as adults. Their salaries, however, are much lower than their counterparts.

Hindustan Times, May 10, 2013, P.7
(Child Labour)

बाल मजदूरी पर दिल्ली सरकार व पुलिस को फटकार

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। राजधानी में कथित रूप से करीब एक लाख से ज्यादा बाल मजदूरों को उनके मालिकों के बंधन से मुक्त कराने में अपेक्षित कार्रवाई न करने पर हाईकोर्ट ने सख्त नाराजगी जताई है। पीठ ने मामले की सुनवाई करते हुए दिल्ली पुलिस से कहा कि वह ठपपुस्त कार्रवाई न करते हुए आंकड़े पेश कर रही है, अदालत को आंकड़े नहीं कार्रवाई चाहिए। पीठ ने दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में रिपोर्ट पेश न करने पर भी नाराजगी जताई और इसके लिए उसे पर दस हजार रुपए जुर्माना टॉक दिया। पीठ ने दिल्ली पुलिस द्वारा पेश आंकड़ों को नाकाफी बताते हुए उससे असंतुष्ट जताई।

मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी मुरुगेशन की अध्यक्षता वाली खंडपीठ ने दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में जवाब दाखिल न करने पर कहा कि इस मामले को गंभीरता से नहीं लिया जा रहा है, अदालत ने दस हजार रुपए जुर्माना करते हुए दिल्ली सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि अगली सुनवाई पर वह अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश करे। अदालत ने कहा कि वह यह बताए कि वह यह बताए कि हाईकोर्ट द्वारा 15 जुलाई 2009 को जारी आदेश के अनुसार 500 बच्चों प्रति माह मुक्त कराने संबंधी आदेश के बाद क्या-क्या कार्रवाई अब तक की गई है। इस मामले में दिल्ली पुलिस ने अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश करते हुए कहा कि पुलिस ने 15 जुलाई 2009 से 31 दिसम्बर 2011 तक बाल मजदूरी के 389 केस दर्ज किए जिनमें उन्होंने बाल मजदूरी से 3257 बच्चों को मुक्त कराया। पीठ ने इस रिपोर्ट पर नाराजगी जाहिर करते हुए उसे नाकाफी बताया और कहा कि जो आदेश अदालत ने दिया था उसका पालन क्यों नहीं हो रहा है।

जानकारी हो कि इस मामले में 'सेव द चाइल्ड फाउंडेशन' नामक एक एनजीओ ने सीनियर एडवोकेट एचएस फुल्का के माध्यम से जनहित याचिका दायर की थी। याचिकाकर्ता की दलील थी कि हाईकोर्ट के 15 जुलाई 2009 को राजधानी में बाल मजदूरी समाप्त कराने के संबंध में सरकार, श्रम विभाग और पुलिस को निर्देश दिया था कि वे हर माह कम से कम 500 बच्चों को बाल मजदूरी से मुक्त कराएं और उनका पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था करें। पीठ ने अब इस मामले की अगली सुनवाई के लिए 31 जुलाई को तारीख तय की है।

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय
DELHI HIGH COURT

► राजधानी में बाल मजदूरी पर सख्त कदम न उठाए जाने पर हाईकोर्ट ने जताई नाराजगी, दिल्ली सरकार पर किया दस हजार रुपए जुर्माना

Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 2, 2013, P.8
(Child Labour)



Times of India, May 2, 2013, P.5

(Child Labour)



Assam Tribune, May 7, 2013, P.8

(Child Labour)

Jurists want India to sign Hague Convention on International Child Abduction

Increasing number of cases of father or mother abducting child, fleeing country

Legal Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Jurists and eminent academicians on Monday called upon India to not only sign the 1980 Hague Convention on International Child Abduction but also legislate on it. For, the number of cases of either the father or the mother abducting the child and fleeing the country of stay was increasing.

The multilateral treaty provides for an expeditious method to return a child taken from one member-nation to another. The Convention currently has 89 member-nations worldwide, but India is not a signatory so far. It seeks to

protect children internationally from the harmful effects of their removal or retention and to establish procedures to ensure their prompt return to the state of their habitual residence as well as to secure protection for the rights of access.

At a symposium organised here by the British High Commission, the participants, including British Deputy High Commissioner to India Julian Evans; Head of International Family Justice for England and Wales Lord Justice Mathew Thorpe; Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia Diana Bryant and the former Attorney-General of India, Soli Sorabjee, urged India to

sign the Convention. The discussion was moderated by advocate Anil Malhotra. Experts from the office of children's issues, U.S. State department; Hague Permanent Bureau; the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and the National Judicial Academy also attended the symposium.

The participants said "given the increased international mobility, there has been a steady rise in cross-border parental child removal cases. Last year, India was second only to Pakistan as a destination for children removed from the United Kingdom alone by one parent against the wishes of the other."

At the end of the symposium, Justice Mathew Thorpe, along with Supreme Court judge Justice Vikramjit Sen and Mr. Sorabjee released the first legal textbook on surrogacy, *Surrogacy in India*, authored by advocates Anil Malhotra and Ranjit Malhotra in the presence of Mr. Julian Evans.

According to Mr. Anil Malhotra, "when an NRI marriage breaks, child custody fight occurs across the seas. We have no laws relating to cases of such conflict over child custody." The book offers an insight into the draft Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2010 and points out various lacunas.

Hindu, May 14, 2013, P. 10

(Child Abduction)

Child abuse cases: Govt lays down guidelines

Faizan Haider

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NEW DELHI: With more cases of sexual assault on minors being reported, the Delhi government has issued a fresh Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed by the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs).

The government has asked

the CWCs to shift the victim out of his/her house within three days in case the accused is a family member. The order also makes it mandatory for the CWC to facilitate the rehabilitation of the victim.

"Newly-implemented Protection of Children from sexual offences (POCSO) Act clearly states that the

CWC must take care of every requirement of children. Some members were not aware of it and thus we have issued new guidelines," a senior Delhi government official said.

"It is also mandatory for the CWC to provide a support person/ counsellor to the child to assist the child during investigation and trial. Also, the CWC

must take opinion of the child and his/her parents to know whether they are comfortable with the support person," the official added.

The new guideline also empowers the CWC to suo-motu cognizance from media reports of any sexual abuse case and is authorised to seek a report from the local police.

Hindustan Times, May 12, 2013, P.5

(Child Abuse)

Now, street kids to get Aadhaar cards

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: Children on the streets of Delhi can now get a unique identity through the UID-Aadhaar programme. The state government's women and child development department has asked NGOs to support the process of enrollment for the biometrics-based identity number that will enable access to social entitlements. After it received a communication from the Unique Identification Authority of India in February regarding enrollment for UID cards for orphan children, the department wrote to NGOs registered with the state and those running childcare institutions.

The order also applies to street children. This information came through at a consultation on government schemes for underprivileged children organized at the India International Centre annexe on Saturday. Senior officials from the department confirmed that the direction applies to all vulnerable children, not just those in institutional care. Now, NGOs working with children at railway stations and on the



NGOs working with children at railway stations and on the streets can endorse them at the time of enrolment.

streets can endorse them at the time of enrollment.

Copies of the letter from the UIDAI to the state on the enrollment process were circulated among stakeholders, mostly NGOs, Child Welfare Committee members, researchers and networks working with children in vulnerable circumstances at the consultation on Saturday.

A certificate issued by a "Group A" gazetted officer will serve as a valid proof of identi-

ty and proof of address for enrollment. The circular states that certificates issued by childcare institutions are signed by welfare officers who are Group A gazetted officers, hence certification from them will do. Providing information on the unique identity enrollment process, Premodaya Khakka, assistant director with the women and child development department, said even NGOs can endorse a child. He asked NGOs to support the process.

Times of India, May 26, 2013, P.2

(Street Children)

Govt asks for monthly reports of child trafficking cases

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Concerned over the increase in the number of trafficking cases, the state government has asked the Delhi police to submit a detailed monthly report of child trafficking cases to it.

Women and child welfare minister Kiran Walia held a meeting with Delhi police on this issue and has asked them to submit a monthly report with details regarding victims' age, area, particulars of the accused and status of the investigation.

"This has been done keeping in view a number of cases of trafficking where the victims have been tortured and traumatized," said Walia.

The minister has announced setting up a high-level committee headed by the chairman of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) to curb trafficking.

The committee will be headed by chairman, DCPCR, Arun

HANDLE WITH CARE

- Crime branch of the Delhi Police to submit monthly reports of child trafficking to Delhi government.

- A sub-inspector level officer to deal with cases involving juveniles in each police station.

- There is need for sensitising officers including lower functionaries at police station level about child trafficking/cases of child abuse was discussed.

Mathur.

It will also comprise senior officers of anti human trafficking unit, director (WCD), a representative of CWC, representatives of NGOs, police officers among others.

According to the officials, it was decided in the meeting that a sub-inspector level officer

should be available round-the-clock in every police station to deal with cases involving juveniles.

"There should be immediate registration of an FIR in case of kidnapping/child abuse/ or child trafficking," the minister said.

"We need to sensitise officials, including lower functionaries at police station level about child trafficking or cases of child abuse," added Walia.

The Delhi police have been told to come out with a list of senior officers of the Delhi Police.

"This list will be made public so that they can be contacted in case of non cooperative attitude of local police officials, at police stations, especially in the cases of child trafficking. Delhi Police's crime branch will also forward us monthly reports of child trafficking cases containing full details about FIR, age wise, area wise, particulars of the accused, status of the investigation/outcome etc," added Walia.

Hindustan Times, May 16, 2013, P.6

(Child Trafficking)

Children still being exposed to tobacco advertisements: WHO

'Ban on sale of tobacco products to minors should be enforced'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI: Despite laws and sustained advocacy by health groups to ensure that children are not exposed to tobacco promotion and sales pitches, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has found that nearly three in four children between 13 and 15 years are still being exposed to pro-cigarette advertisements on billboards and pro-tobacco messages at sports and other events.

Urging countries to ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, the WHO said these advertisements have been proven to influence children to start smoking. Estimating that nearly 1.3 million people die of tobacco-related illnesses every year in South-East Asia, the organisation has appealed for stronger legislation and enforcement to prevent tobacco-related deaths in the region.

WHO regional director for South-East Asia, Dr. Samlee Plianbangchang said: "Statistics show that banning tobacco advertising and sponsorship is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce tobacco demand. A

- Nearly 1.3 million people in South-East Asia die of tobacco-related illnesses every year

- One in ten students are offered free cigarettes by tobacco companies in the region

comprehensive ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship could decrease tobacco consumption by an average of about 7 per cent, with some countries experiencing a decline in consumption of up to 16 per cent."

'Strengthen ban'

The organisation monitors and draws global attention to the activities and practices of the tobacco industry in conformity with World Health Assembly Resolution WHA54.18 and the provisions of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

"Our efforts should focus on preventing the youth from being exposed to all forms of tobacco advertisement, promotion and sponsorship. Enforcement of a ban on sale of tobacco to minors should also be strengthened," added Dr. Plianbangchang.

Stating that effective monitoring, enforcement and

sanctions along with high community awareness are essential for implementing a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, non-government organisation Voluntary Health Association of India's executive director Bhavna Mukhopadhyay said: "Although most countries have tobacco control laws, a ban on advertising of tobacco products needs to be enforced."

Research states one in 10 students had been offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company in the region and that seven in 10 students saw cigarette brand names when watching sports events on television.

"These data are alarming as they show how the tobacco industry has been using all kinds of techniques to allure the youth to become addicted to tobacco. Once young people have experimented with tobacco, they are prone to be-

come tobacco-users as adults," noted Ms. Mukhopadhyay.

While in India, taxation on cigarettes has been significantly increased and many States have banned the sale of *gutka*, many countries in the South-East Asian region have banned sponsored events by tobacco companies and others have prohibited the tobacco industry from publicising their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

"The tobacco industry targets the youth as part of their CSR activities by funding of smoking prevention programmes for youth, rescue efforts during natural disasters, education and research grants, sponsoring of sports and social events etc. Research has shown that their smoking prevention programmes for youth did not prevent the youth from smoking. The research funded by the industry also aims to defend the tobacco industry by diluting the strong evidence of the hazards of tobacco on health. These activities are aimed to gain respect of the public while marketing their tobacco brands," warned Ms. Mukhopadhyay.

Hindu, May 30, 2013, P. 2

(Substance Abuse-Tabacco)

बच्चों की तस्करी रोकने को सरकार ने बनाई रणनीति

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। राजधानी में बच्चों की गुमशुदगी तथा अन्य राज्यों से बच्चों की तस्करी रोकने के लिए सरकार ने सख्त कदम उठाने की रणनीति बनाई है। बाल एवं महिला विकास मंत्री प्रो.किरण वालिया ने बाल तस्करी व गुमशुदगी की घटनाओं की निगरानी व रोकथाम के लिए एक हाईपावर कमेटी का गठन करने और प्रति माह ऐसे मामलों की रिपोर्ट सरकार को सौंपने के आदेश पुलिस को दिए हैं। उन्होंने रेलवे स्टेशनों व बस अड्डों पर विशेष निगरानी के साथ रेलवे पुलिस से समन्वय बनाने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

राजधानी में बच्चों की गुमशुदगी की बढ़ती घटनाओं तथा अन्य राज्यों से हो रही बाल तस्करी को रोकने के लिए महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री प्रो.किरण वालिया ने बुधवार को एक उच्चस्तरीय बैठक बुलाई जिसमें जिला पुलिस उपायुक्तों को भी तलब किया गया। इस बैठक में पुलिस की क्राइम ब्रांच के अधिकारी, विभिन्न स्वीच्छक संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि तथा विधि विशेषज्ञ भी शामिल थे। प्रो. वालिया ने कहा कि बच्चों की गुमशुदगी तथा अपहरण के प्रति पुलिस द्वारा त्वरित कार्रवाई नहीं की जाती जिस कारण अपहरण किए गए बच्चों का गलत कार्यों में इस्तेमाल और उनके साथ दुष्कर्म जैसी वारदातें अंजाम दे दी जाती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले दिनों मासूम बच्चियों से दुष्कर्म की जो



- ▶ सभी जिला पुलिस उपायुक्तों को दिए कड़े निर्देश
- ▶ अपहरण या गुमशुदगी की सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस को करनी होगी त्वरित कार्रवाई
- ▶ पुलिस प्रति माह गुमशुदा व बरामद बच्चों की रिपोर्ट देगी सरकार को
- ▶ निगरानी व रोकथाम के लिए हाईपावर कमेटी का गठन

घटनाएं सामने आई हैं उनमें बच्चों की गुमशुदगी या अपहरण की सूचना पहले ही पुलिस को दे दी गई थी लेकिन पुलिस ने समय पर कार्रवाई नहीं की। उन्होंने कहा कि अन्य राज्यों से प्रति वर्ष हजारों बच्चे बाल तस्करी कर दिल्ली लाए जाते हैं। इनकी रोकथाम के लिए रेलवे स्टेशनों व बस अड्डों पर निगरानी बढ़ाने तथा रेलवे पुलिस से समन्वय बनाना चाहिए।

उन्होंने कहा कि बाल तस्करी को रोकने के लिए अन्य राज्यों से भी तालमेल स्थापित किया जाए।

हाईपावर कमेटी का गठन: बाल तस्करी रोकने के लिए एक हाई पावर कमेटी का भी गठन किया। इस कमेटी में पुलिस की क्राइम ब्रांच के अधिकारी, दिल्ली बाल अधिकार व संरक्षण आयोग के प्रतिनिधि, निदेशक बाल विकास विभाग, चाइल्ड वेलफेयर कमेटी के सदस्य तथा स्वयंसेवी संगठनों के प्रतिनिधियों को शामिल किया गया है। प्रो.वालिया ने कहा कि अन्य राज्यों में बाल तस्करी को रोकने के लिए इस तरह की व्यवस्था की जाए कि यदि कोई बच्चा माता-पिता की सहमति से भी कहीं बाहर जाता है तो पंचायत सचिव को इसकी जानकारी दी जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि इंटिग्रेटेड चाइल्ड डेवलपमेंट सर्विस आईसीडीएस के कार्यकर्ताओं को भी पंचायत स्तर पर बाल तस्करी, गुमशुदगी व अपहरण आदि की घटनाओं की निगरानी करनी चाहिए।

Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 16, 2013, P.3
(Child Trafficking)

For every abused child, mothers hurt

The only way to protect and nurture our children is by giving them enough safe room to remain carefree

Sagari Chhabra

Everyday the headlines scream at us, with alarming frequency, of yet another rape. Every 32 minutes somewhere in India, a woman is getting raped. There is certainly a breakdown of the social fabric; large sections of the people are feeling a sense of anomie. Then there is rampant unemployment fuelled with pornography and an increased objectification of women. What is even more horrific is the rising incidence of child rape. According to the National Crimes Record Bureau, there has been a 336% increase in child rape over the last decade, for as many as 48,338 child rape cases have been recorded between 2001 and 2011. This is the tip of the iceberg, as most cases go unreported, due to social stigma.

On receiving this shocking news, many of us, particularly mothers, respond with alarm and renewed concern about our own children. The response is to tell mothers to keep children within closed doors (although often the rapist is a 'known person') or under increased vigilance. The onus of responsibility for the safety of the child finally falls on the mother.

The state and all other agencies, seem to shrug their shoulders, with a 'you did not protect your child' attitude. The other counsel blithely meted out to mothers is, 'why don't you keep an ayah?' This Marie Antoinette style solution seems to blindly ignore the reality that the ayah, if at all available, leaves her own children untended and, therefore, vulnerable to sexual abuse. Besides, this class conscious solution is only available to the middle and upper classes. Do not all children deserve a thought or our care? That mothers have to work to make a living; cater to the endless needs of families while juggling home and work is not reckoned in the GDP, for women's work is simply not evaluated. It is outside the pale of reckoning and so women and their lot exist, make a living, but remain on the margins of society. Women's work and lives are unaccounted for. In particular, children don't count as citizens of India, because they are not vote-banks, as yet. Looking around, it strikes me as rather odd that every land transferred in the name of the people has a parking lot, a reception, wash-rooms, a fire exit and so on, but no room for children. I notice that even community centres, public libraries and significant centres of intellectual and public activity in the Capital, rent out their space (often on prime land) for parties and functions but shrug off the basic

RECEIVING NEWS [OF CHILD RAPE], MANY OF US MOTHERS, RESPOND WITH ALARM AND RENEWED CONCERN ABOUT OUR OWN CHILDREN

responsibility of having a room for children.

A small children's room with an attached bathroom and a female attendant would not burden the existing infrastructure. In fact, it would be a space where women could place their children for a short while, knowing that they are safe, as they do their relevant chores. Corporate houses could do their bit through corporate social responsibility as well. And mothers (as always)

could routinely volunteer and supervise. Employers too would find reduced absenteeism among their employees. In all Scandinavian countries, child care is the responsibility of the State, that sets up well planned, thoughtfully executed, child care and day care facilities.

Along with this, the introduction of secular ethics in the school curriculum that would teach both boys and girls about gender equality and sensitivity to each other would create a more humane society. We need ethics for the new millennium that would create a more compassionate society. We need to care for each other, rather than rely on a corrupt and well entrenched police force and yet more surveillance. The thought of rape arises first in the mind. Gandhi's favourite bhajan, Raghupati Raghava had 'sabko sammati de bhagwan' as one of its lines.

Finally, all police stations should have a women and child cell, with a sensitive and well-trained person, whom people can alert, when their suspicion is aroused, before a situation arises. Society fears the police and men in power. The onus now lies on the men in power to change their rather ugly image. I hope, that the suave, internationally travelled minister of state for HRD Shashi Tharoor and the women & child development minister, Krishna Tirath, will put their heads together and respond to the crying need of the children of India.

Sagari Chhabra is a writer, film director and social activist
The views expressed by the author are personal

Hindustan Times, May 6, 2013, P.2
(Child Abuse)

Juvenile delinquency: a challenge

■ Dr Jayanta Kr Sarmah

Tremendous explosion of knowledge all around the world in all spheres of life has brought prosperity for human beings in the recent years. Science and technology is growing very fast contributing rapid expansion of the industrial sector as well as production of commodities which makes the life and living of people very luxurious. But at the same time, development in the value system is not proportionate to that of industrial growth, resulting in humanitarian crises many times in the society. One of the outcomes of this cultural lag is juvenile delinquency.

If good human beings are to be developed for a better world, the negative forces that support violence and conflict are to be brought to an end. Violence, conflict, unrest – all these are reflected in the activities of juvenile especially among the secondary stage students and number of such children is growing day by day. During 2005 and 2006, there was an increase of 9.97% incident of juvenile delinquency under IPC in Assam. During the same period, there was an increase of 3.97% incidence of total crime under IPC in Assam. Hence, the rate of growth of juvenile delinquency is higher than that of adult criminal offences punishable under the IPC. Major crimes under IPC in Assam done by delinquent children during 2006 are theft (47.08%), burglary (18.42%), riot (8.19%), murder (4.68%), rape (2.34%) and kidnapping (2.92%). Other crimes (16.37%) include robbery, dacoity, cheating, counterfeit, etc.

Any abnormal behaviour of a habitually disobedient child under the age of 16 years who deviates from the social norms and standard that necessitates a juvenile justice system and application of crime-correction procedure is known as juvenile delinquency. Sometimes, this kind of incorrigible behaviour is not only detrimental to the society but also limits personal development of the juvenile resulting in

huge wastage of human potentiality. Lack of proper guidance either in school or home at adolescence period is the prime factor responsible for their criminal behaviour. It is found that most of the government schools of Assam do not have provision for yoga, meditation or specific subjects for moral development. Co-scholastic activities are also not performed in a systematic way and on regular basis. Lack of or under-utilization of entertainment and sports facilities in school, non-availability of trained physical education teachers in many schools, defective behaviour of some teachers, indiscipline in schools, disobedient peers, unmanageable teacher-pupil ratio, lack of activities for value clarification, etc., have also added to the magnitude of delinquency. Defective family relationship, broken home, lack of discipline at home, illiterate parents, poor economic status also contribute towards juvenile delinquency. On the other hand, students of secondary stage are attracted towards criminal offence due to dissatisfaction with their present condition. Sometimes they develop strong desire to have enjoyable things as seen with their friends or in homes of friends, in shopping mall or trade fair, or in movies or TV serials. Impact of bad association, movies, TV programmes, and pornographic literature which are easily accessible through internet on adolescents is very high and it generally develops a desire among the low intelligence children for easy money or adventures or both leading to criminal behaviour.

Though in a few lessons of language textbooks, contents are written with an aim to develop moral aspects along with language competencies, but most of the teachers give emphasis on development of grammatical competencies only, not on the messages carried by them.

In Assam, the number of persons having diploma or degree on physical and health education is very limited,

because of non-availability of sufficient institutes in the State offering such type of professional courses. On the other hand, most of the teachers with general educational background are found to be reluctant to dedicate their service for the purpose.

Tremendous emphasis has been given in NCF-2005 on education for peace at all levels of school education. According to NCF-2005, non-violent conflict-resolution skills could be nurtured and applied constructively to disputes between the individuals, groups and nations. Education is providing road map for sustainable process of building up empathy, peace-tolerance, justice, reflective individual, intercultural understanding and civic responsibility. According to NCF-2005, education for peace seeks to nurture ethical development including the values, attitudes, hope, social responsibility and respect for cultural diversity in addition to a firm commitment to democracy and non-violent conflict resolution along with skills required for living in harmony with oneself and with others including nature.

Compliance with suggestions in NCF-2005 action needs to be taken to set up special clubs and reading room in schools; to screen selected documentaries, feature films from time to time in schools that can sensitize students and promote the values of justice and peace; to celebrate the cultural and religious diversity of India; value clarification activities. The hidden components in a lesson could optimally be used by teachers by adapting appropriate teaching skills to awaken positive feelings among the students through experiential and reflective learning environment.

The problem of juvenile delinquency cannot be solved by means of legislation and government efforts alone. Well designed school education could play a vital role in respect of minimizing juvenile delinquency among school children. Teachers of elementary and sec-

ondary levels need to be provided pre- and in-service training on peace education. At least one teacher from each school should be oriented on physical and health education with special reference to yoga and meditation. Incorporation of physical and health education at secondary stage with special reference to yoga and meditation with necessary infrastructure will certainly help the secondary school students to foster the desire to live together peacefully which is the foundation of social cohesion and national development.

Assam Tribune, May 16, 2013, P.6
(Juvenile Delinquency)

Review order on missing kids: Govt

Naziya Alvi Rahman | TNN

New Delhi: Taking serious view of a Delhi Police circular directing closure of year-old cases of missing children, Delhi child and women development minister Kiran Walla has asked the police commissioner to get the order "legally examined". In a letter dated May 17, Walla expressed her apprehensions that the circular can be "misused" by investigating officers who might sit on complaints and close the cases upon completion of one year.

Walla has also sought police commissioner Neeraj Kumar's personal intervention saying the directions are "not likely to serve public interest". Last week, a similar letter was issued by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights to the police commissioner seeking urgent review of implementation of this circular.

"I feel there is every likelihood that many cases are tracked one year after their institution. Implementation of the said circular is likely to take a number of cases out of the ambit of investigation if cases are closed in one

year," said Walla in her letter. The circular issued by SCP (Crime) Dharmendra Kumar states that "it has been noticed that the number of kidnapping cases of missing children pending investigation is increasing steadily because there is a doubt in the mind of the in-



vestigating officers and the supervisory officers about the time period after which such cases can be closed".

However, in all such cases of closure, the case would be reopened at any time in the future on receipt of any fresh input or information about the kidnapped child. "The information on the case on the web portal ZIP-NET shall not be deleted until the child is found," the circular adds.

Statesman, May 6, 2013, P.3

(Missing Children)

3,450 missing children still untraced in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 5 MAY: Close to 3,450 children who went missing in Delhi in the past over three years are yet to be traced and girls accounted for 55 per cent of them.

The capital witnessed the missing of 17,252 children, including 8,724 girls, between January 2010 and April 15 this year out of whom 13,863 were traced. Of them, 6,941 were girls.

According to Delhi Police statistics, police are yet to trace 3,439 children and girls account for 1,893 while the number of

boys are 229.

Till April 15 this year, 1,766 children, including 1,020 girls, went missing in the capital but police have failed to trace as many as 609 minors, including 380 girls.

A total of 1,157 children were rescued, out of whom 640 were girls.

Last year, a total of 5,284 children, including 2,682 girls, went missing from the capital out of whom 4,108 were traced. However, among the 1,176 who were yet to be traced, 667 were girls. **pti**

Times of India, May 22, 2013, P.2

(Missing Children)

सीडब्ल्यूसी के लिए स्टैंडर्ड ऑपरेटिंग प्रॉसिजर

पूनम पाण्डे ॥ नई दिल्ली

बच्चों के केयर और प्रोटेक्शन में अहम रोल निभाने वाली चाइल्ड वेलफेयर कमिटी (सीडब्ल्यूसी) के लिए दिल्ली सरकार ने स्टैंडर्ड ऑपरेटिंग प्रॉसिजर (एसओपी) जारी किए हैं। कई मामलों में नियमों की अनदेखी कर लापरवाही बढ़ाने की सीडब्ल्यूसी को शिकायतें दिल्ली सरकार के पास पहुंची थी। हाल ही में हुए बच्चों के साथ सेक्सुअल अब्यूज के कई मामलों में भी सीडब्ल्यूसी ने कोई एक्टिव रोल अदा नहीं किया। अब दिल्ली सरकार के महिला और बाल विकास विभाग ने जेजे एक्ट और पॉस्को एक्ट का हवाला देते हुए एसओपी जारी किया है।

बच्चे का बयान करें रेकॉर्ड : सेक्सुअल अब्यूज या ट्रैफिकिंग के शिकार बच्चों से कई सीडब्ल्यूसी बात ही नहीं करती। बिना पूरी जानकारी लिए पुलिस के अनुसार ही ऑर्डर पास कर देती हैं। दिल्ली सरकार के एसओपी में कहा गया है कि बच्चे का बयान जरूर लें और यह ऑन रेकॉर्ड हो। साथ ही जो भी ऑर्डर दे वह सब लिखित हो।

मिसिंग चिल्ड्रन का रखें डेटा : सीडब्ल्यूसी को अपने एरिया में मिसिंग चिल्ड्रन का डेटा रखना होता है और इसका फॉलोअप करने की भी जिम्मेदारी है। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हो पा रहा है। किसी भी सीडब्ल्यूसी को पता ही नहीं है कि एरिया के कितने बच्चे कब से मिसिंग हैं। एसओपी में कहा है कि हर महीने मिसिंग बच्चों का डेटा तैयार किया जाए और हर मामले में फॉलो अप हो।

● बच्चों के मामलों को सही से डील न करने की मिली शिकायतें

● जेजे एक्ट और पॉस्को एक्ट के पालन के लिए जारी किया प्रोटोकॉल

पीड़ित को मिले सपोर्टर्स पर्सन : दिल्ली सरकार ने कहा है कि सीडब्ल्यूसी हर बच्चे को एक सपोर्टर्स पर्सनल मुहैया कराएगा जो डॉक्टर और ट्रैफिकिंग के दौरान सहायता करेगा। सपोर्टर्स पर्सन तय करते वक्त बच्चे के पैरेंट्स वा गार्डियन की राय भी जरूरी है। पिछले दिनों फर्स बाजार में 13 साल की लड़की के साथ रेप के मामले सहित कई मामलों में सीडब्ल्यूसी ने सपोर्टर्स पर्सन नहीं दिया। न ही कोई एक्टिव रोल अदा किया। गांधीनगर में पांच साल की बच्ची से रेप के मामले में भी काफी वक्त बाद सीडब्ल्यूसी एक्टिव हुई।

ट्रैफिकिंग के मामलों में वेरिफिकेशन : एसओपी में कहा है कि बच्चों की ट्रैफिकिंग कर उन्हें प्रॉस्टिट्यूशन में धकेलने के मामले में बच्चों को परिवारों को सीपने से पहले पुलिस वेरिफिकेशन करवा लें। कई मामलों में दलाल ही फर्जी दस्तावेज लाकर बच्चों को वापस ले जाते हैं और फिर उसी दलाल में धकेल देते हैं।

कैसे फॉलो होंगे नियम : प्रतिभि के प्रोग्राम कॉर्डिनेटर योगेश के मुताबिक कई मामलों में जिन्हें लेकर हम सीडब्ल्यूसी गए वहां पीड़ित के पुनर्वास के लिए जो अपेक्षाएं थी वह पूरी नहीं हुई। हमने इस बारे में दिल्ली सरकार से भी शिकायत की।

चाइल्ड राइट्स एक्टिविस्ट्स का कहना है कि एक्ट और रूल में जो कहा गया है अगर वह नहीं किया तो क्या एक्शन होगा ऐसा कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। अगर एसओपी का भी पालन नहीं होगा तो दिल्ली सरकार क्या कदम उठाएगी यह साफ नहीं है।

Nav Bharat Times (H) , May 12, 2013, P.15

(Standard Operating Procedure)

Drug addiction spurs sexual abuse of kids in City

Young victims face high risk of HIV infection; boys more vulnerable

Rupsa Chakraborty

BANGALORE: Every year, at least half of the street children in Bangalore suffer sexual abuse, but the incidents go unreported due to lack of awareness. Extensive consumption of drugs makes street children more vulnerable to sexual abuse.

According to a Nimhans study of 2010, which draws attention to the particular vulnerability of boys, "almost all of these children reported one or more incidents where they had either been forced into or paid for or offered drugs in exchange for sex."

Rampant sexual abuse among street children has increased their risk of contracting HIV infection. In about 90 per cent cases of sexual exploitation, intoxicated male culprits were contacted, they said that figures for street children who are HIV positive are unavailable, as the victims are highly mobile.

prits do not use barrier contraception (condoms), despite the knowledge of using it. That makes the young victims vulnerable to HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. It is feared that this may acquire epidemic proportions in future.

Despite the lack of accurate statistics on sexual abuse of children, the amount of sexual activity among the City's street children has grown to approximately 51 per cent, according to the Nimhans study.

Deplorable conditions

Most work in deplorable conditions; about 80 per cent of them sleep in open public places, making them vulnerable and exposed to the risk of being sexually exploited and drug abuse.

When officials of the Karnataka State Aids Prevention

They, however, confirmed unofficially that HIV infection among street children had gone up drastically in the last five years.

Although many child rights protection groups such as Child Rights Committee, child welfare offices at police stations, State Child Protection Commission and district child protection units have come up, nothing has been done to provide proper shelter to street children under the Juvenile Justice Act, Sheela Devaraj, Director of the Association for Promoting Social Action, said. The government seems to be "careless" about the needs of these children, she said.

"As our surveys show, 90 per cent of the street children who were interviewed did not even know how the disease got transmitted or its symptoms and had contracted the virus through sexual abuse," Devaraj said.

Not sensitive

Many child rights activists complained that the police and the judiciary were not sensitive towards these children.

"Almost all the children (more

than 90 per cent) had been abused, violated and exploited by policemen at some point of time in their lives," the Nimhans report said.

Bosco, an NGO working for the development of children, reported that Bangalore had witnessed a rise of 40 per cent in the number of street children subjected to sexual exploitation in the past five years. Girls over the age of 15 have reported higher incidence of sexual abuse, whereas boys are sexually abused at a much younger age by their elder adult male group members.

Nagasimha Rao of the Child Rights Trust said that the increasing migration of children from neighbouring states to the City would deteriorate the situation in future. "It is a huge task to monitor this mounting number of children on the streets and give them protection. For their safety and security, the government needs to stop their migration," he said.

DH News Service

Deccan Chronicle, May 29, 2013, P.3

(Street Children)

Panel for relook at closure of missing children's cases

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights has written to the police commissioner seeking urgent review of implementation of a circular issued by special commissioner of police (crime) in April allowing cases of missing children to be closed after one year.

The circular authorizes senior cops of the rank of additional commissioners of police and deputy commissioners of police to file the final report and close the case after one year if they are satisfied that "investigation into all aspects of the case has been completed".

Taking note of the April 9 circular, DCPCR on Thursday shot off a letter to Neeraj Kumar citing that the "commission feels that the circular may neither be tenable in the eyes of law nor in the best interest of missing children and their parents."

The commission's letter calls upon police to "take immediate action to review the implementation of the circular, till all aspects of the legality of the issue are thoroughly gone into". The commission has sought a reply from Kumar by May 20. Police have also been asked to make available copies of all relevant circulars issued by Delhi Police with respect to missing children during the last 3-5 years.

The Commission feels it to be a fit case to intervene so that investigation in case of missing children is not "dropped prematurely in a routine manner". "This will adversely affect the interest of children who have already gone missing and are facing threatening conditions," the commission chaired by Arun Mathur said.

The Delhi Police circular issued by Special CP (Crime) Dharmendra Kumar on April 9 states that "it has been noticed that the number of kidnapping cases of missing children pending investigation is increasing steadily because there is a doubt in the mind of the investigating officers and the supervisory officers about the time period after which such cases can be closed".

It goes on to clarify that if senior officials of the rank of additional commissioners of police and deputy commissioners of police are satisfied after the expiry of a period of one year that investigation into all aspects related to the case has been completed, then they may authorize preparation of the final report in the ease.

"However, in all such cases of closure, the case would be reopened at any time in the future on receipt of any fresh input or information about the kidnapped child. The information on the case on the web portal ZIP-NET shall not be deleted until the child is found," the circular states.

Times of India, May 11, 2013, P.10

(Missing Children)

'Govt defending recruitment of child soldiers by extremist groups'

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 11 MAY: "India's Child Soldiers", a first-of-its-kind comprehensive report, has accused the government of defending the record of the armed opposition groups, officially designated as terrorist groups, on the recruitment of child soldiers before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, according to Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR).

India in its first report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict to the UN Committee in 2011 stated that there is no recruitment of child soldiers, including by the armed groups in India, the rights group said. The first periodic report of India will come up for preliminary examination by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child during its 66th pre-session working group to be held in Geneva from 7-11 October 2013 while NGOs are required to submit their reports by 1 July 2013.

"The recruitment of child soldiers by the armed groups including the Maoists is rampant and at least 3,000 children i.e. 500 in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir and about 2,500 in the Maoist-affected States currently remain involved in armed conflicts. This estimate of child soldiers is conservative considering that the Maoists follow the policy of forcibly recruiting at least one cadre from each Adivasi family," said Mr. Suhas Chakma, Director of Asian Centre for Human Rights.

In addition to providing 11 cases of forcible recruitment of child soldiers by the armed groups, Asian Centre for Human Rights presented a number of photographs of child soldiers surrendering with their arms before the then Home Minister Mr P Chidambaram and Assam Chief Minister Mr Tarun Gogoi in 2011 and 2012.

While hundreds of children below 18 years have been recruited as "boy orderlies" in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh over the years, the state government of Chhattisgarh, on a complaint filed by Asian Centre for Human Rights before the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, admitted in June 2011 that there are approximately 300 "boy-orderlies" employed in the state police force at present and seven of them were posted with 4th Battalion of Chhattisgarh Police at Mana in Raipur, he said. "These children are not only denied the right to education but deployed with the forces who are engaged in counter-insurgency," asserted Asian Centre for Human Rights.

Article 4 of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict states that armed opposition groups should not, under any circumstance, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years and the government shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalise such practices.

The government of India, however, in its first report of 2011 stated that there is no recruitment of child soldiers by the armed groups as "India does not face either international or non-international armed conflict situations". "This position of the Government of India is not only bizarre but also a case where the Government is actually defending the records of the armed groups on recruitment of child soldiers before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. India effectively protected the officially designated terror groups from condemnation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for the recruitment of child soldiers, a war crime under the international law," Mr Chakma further stated.

ACHR has urged the government to inquire as to why the recruitment of child soldiers by the officially designated terror groups was concealed from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and take appropriate actions against the officials who have effectively ended up whitewashing the records of the armed groups on the recruitment of child soldiers.

Statesman, May 12, 2013, P.8

(Child Soldiers)

बच्चों की तस्करी रोकने को बनी कमेटी

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : बच्चों की तस्करी पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए दिल्ली सरकार ने दोस कदम उठाए हैं। बुधवार को सचिवालय में हुई बैठक में समाज कल्याण एवं महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री किरण बालिया ने एक उच्च स्तरीय कमेटी के गठन की घोषणा की। दिल्ली बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के चेयरपर्सन अरुण माथुर को इसका प्रमुख बनाया गया है। इस उच्च स्तरीय कमेटी में मानव तस्करी निरोधक दस्ता, महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के डॉपरेक्टर, बाल कल्याण समिति का एक सदस्य, एनजीओ के सदस्य, पुलिस अधिकारी, रेलवे अधिकारी, राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के सदस्य शामिल हैं। अपना भद्र को लीगल कंसल्टेंट बनाया गया है।

सचिवालय में हुई बैठक में दिल्ली में दिल्ली बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग, राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग, सभी जिलों के पुलिस उपायुक्त और विभिन्न एनजीओ शामिल हुए थे। किरण बालिया ने बच्चों की गुमशुदगी, तस्करी एवं यौन उत्पीड़न के मामलों में तत्काल एफआईआर दर्ज करने पर बल दिया। पुलिस को बच्चों से संबंधित मामलों को संवेदनशीलता से लेने की जरूरत पर भी जोर देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि थाने

के सभी पुलिसकर्मियों को जागरूक होना चाहिए।

किरण बालिया ने प्रत्येक थाने में कम से कम एक सब इम्पेक्टर को चौबीस घंटे सिर्फ बच्चों से संबंधित अपराधों की जांच के लिए तैनाती पर बल दिया। उन्होंने दिल्ली पुलिस के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की एक लिस्ट पब्लिक में जारी करने की बात कही ताकि बच्चों की तस्करी से संबंधित मामलों में निचले स्तर के पुलिसकर्मियों की लापरवाही बरतने की दशा में आम लोग वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों से शिकायत कर सकें। किरण बालिया ने अपराध शाखा को निर्देश दिया कि वो बच्चों की तस्करी से संबंधित रिपोर्ट प्रत्येक महीने दिल्ली सरकार को

सचिवालय में हुई बैठक के बाद प्रो. किरण बालिया ने गठित की कमेटी

दिल्ली बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के चेयरपर्सन को बनाया कमेटी का प्रमुख

मुहैया कराएगी। बच्चों की उम्र, एफआईआर नंबर, इलाका, मामले में पुलिस की जांच कहाँ तक पहुँची ये भी बताना पड़ेगा। उच्च स्तरीय कमेटी गठित करने का फेसला गत दिनों में सामने आये उन मामलों के बाद लिया गया, जिन लोगों पर बच्चों की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी थी उन लोगों द्वारा ही बच्चों का यौन उत्पीड़न किया गया।

बच्चों को बेचने के मामले में दिल्ली व उड़ीसा को नोटिस

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : उड़ीसा से चार नाबालिग बच्चियों को नौकरी दिलाने के बहाने दिल्ली लकड़ बेच देने के मामले में दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने दिल्ली सरकार व उड़ीसा सरकार को नोटिस जारी कर जवाब मांगा है। दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी मुरुगोसन व न्यायमूर्ति जयंतनाथ की खंडपीठ ने उक्त दोनों को कहा है कि वह नेशनल कमिशन फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ चाइल्ड राइट (एनसीपीसीआर) द्वारा बच्चों की तस्करी एवं बाल मजदूरी रोकने के संबंध में तय किए गए दिशा-निर्देशों को लेकर अपना जवाब दायर करें। जिसके तहत यह बताया जाए कि उनके द्वारा बाल संरक्षण को लेकर किस त-उ की कार्यवाई की जा रही है। अब इस मामले की अगली सुनवाई 3 जुलाई को होगी। बाल तस्करी के मामले में दिल्ली पुलिस ने बुधवार को अपनी रिपोर्ट दाखिल करते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने उड़ीसा से प्लेसमेंट एजेंसियों के माध्यम से लाई गई चार लड़कियों

को राजधानी में नौकरानी के तौर पर बेचने के तीन मामलों को सुलझा लिया है और लड़कियों को बरामद कर वापस उड़ीसा भिजवा दिया गया है। एक लड़की की तलाश दिल्ली पुलिस व उड़ीसा पुलिस मिलकर कर रही है। उल्लेखनीय है कि हेमंती मलिक नामक एक व्यक्ति ने अधिवक्ता अनंत अस्थाना के माध्यम से एक जनहित याचिका दायर की थी। याचिकाकर्ता का कहना था कि विभिन्न राज्यों से प्लेसमेंट एजेंसियों के द्वारा नौकरी दिलाने के नाम पर नाबालिगों को दिल्ली एवं एनसीपीसीआर क्षेत्रों में लाया जा रहा है और फिर उन्हें अन्य जगहों पर हमेशा के लिये बेच दिया जाता है। इस संबंध में याचिकाकर्ता ने उड़ीसा की चार लड़कियों को इसी तरह के मामले का उल्लेख भी किया था।

Dainik Jagran (H), May 16, 2013, P.6
(Child Trafficking)

Kids' channels under scanner

press trust of india

NEW DELHI, 17 MAY: Faced with several complaints against cartoon channels for showing scenes which are unsuitable for children, the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has asked broadcasters whose primary viewership is children, to exercise greater caution in selecting content.

Officials said that there have been complaints that content inappropriate for young viewers like promos with kissing scenes, an incident where a cartoon character attempts suicide or another scene in which a character attempts to pull down a girl's skirt have been aired on many occasions.

In other complaints, viewers had expressed anguish at the telecast of promos of a reality show or other programmes meant for adult viewers on channels for children and young viewers. Sources said that at a meeting held here yesterday, the BCCC which is the self regulatory body of the broadcast industry headed by Justice (Retd.) A P Shah, took a serious note of the complaints.

As per the BCCC advisory, the complaints relate to telecast of "objectionable" content, visuals, theme, animation and/or use of "inappropriate" language in some programmes aired on children's and cartoon channels.

The other complaints related to telecast of movie clips classified



Viewers had expressed anguish at the telecast of promos of a reality show or other programmes meant for adult viewers on channels for children and young viewers

as UA, including horror and action films, on channels meant for children. The BCCC took note of the contention but opined that as a matter of fact, some channels consider children to be their principle target viewers.

Consequently, it is children who overwhelmingly watch these channels and unsuspecting parents allow them easy access to programmes aired on such channels, the BCCC held. "While the BCCC wishes to avoid being a censoring agency, it advises all IBF member channels, particularly children's/ cartoon channels, to be more cautious in the selection of the content shown, considering the impressionable minds of their target viewers," the BCCC's advisory said. The broadcasting industry's self regulatory body said that the emphasis should be on the "best interest of the child".

Statesman, May 18, 2013, P.1
(Content-Kids Channels)

No central aid for poor kids

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: Arun (not his real name) is 12 years old, a scavenger and the sole breadwinner of his family since his father's death. His mother is an invalid and his siblings are too young to help. What can the boy expect from the government? The official who took his question at a meeting on Saturday told him about the Centre's "sponsorship" scheme, although in Delhi it exists only on paper because of impractical selection criteria.

One of the eligibility conditions is that the beneficiary child's annual family income should not be more than Rs 24,000. But in Delhi, government sources points out, hardly any family earns less than Rs 2,000 a month.

Last November, Delhi's women and child development minister Kiran Walia wrote to union minister Krishna Tirath for a review of the criteria but has not received a reply. Delhi has also asked the Centre to allow it to use its own "proxy parameters" of poverty instead to make the scheme "practi-

cal". In 2008, the Delhi government made a provision for vulnerability criteria to identify eligible people for various social protection schemes. The homeless, and the residents of notified slums, non-notified slums and resettlement colonies are eligible. The state government wants to use these parameters for the sponsorship scheme which grants a child Rs 1,000 every month for education and development.

Sanjay Gupta, director of NGO, Childhood Enhancement Through Education & Training, which organized Saturday's event, pointed out the idea was to get a children's perspective on the many schemes launched over the years and know their implementation status. "We wanted to know what children in those circumstances feel about the government, its many schemes, and understand their needs. Like, a child wanted to know what happens to children who are transgenders. This is such a significant concern and it turns out there are no special schemes for them," Gupta said.

Times of India, May 26, 2013, P.2

(Poor Kids)

1.2 Role of Civil Society / Statutory Bodies / Civil Society Initiatives (NCPCR/DCPCR Special Boarding School/ KISS Initiative/CDK-Street Children)



Amar Ujala, May 26, 2013, P.15
(Special Boarding School)



Statesman, May 12, 2013, P.5
(Initiative-KISS)



Assam Tribune, May 21, 2013, P.8
(Initiative-Save the Children)

Dispensing courage to youngsters

TRANSFORMATION Discussion on child sexual abuse on Aamir's reality show made many open up

Sneha Agrawal
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The Delhi gang rape case in 2012 will go down in India's history for dramatically changing anti-rape laws. The year also witnessed Bollywood star Aamir Khan's television reality show debut.

The two unlinked events had a unified impact — sudden rise in reporting of child abuse cases. More than doubling of number of calls received by national child helpline — Childline — in 2012.

"At Childline we saw two key triggers for enhanced reporting of the child abuse cases," said Nishit Kumar, communication head of the government commissioned social organisation.

First was in May 2013 when Satyamev Jayate's second episode on child abuse was broadcast. "That day, post the show, we received one lakh calls from adults, wanting to speak of sexual abuse during their childhood," he said. The second was after the public hue and cry over Delhi gang rape.

Such was its impact that child bride Guddi (name changed) mustered courage to inform authorities about the attempt of her parents to marry her at an age of 14. A seventh standard drop-out was being married by her poverty-struck parents against her wish. Timely intervention by local police averted the marriage.

Thousands of kilometers away in Tamil Nadu, a six-year-old visu-

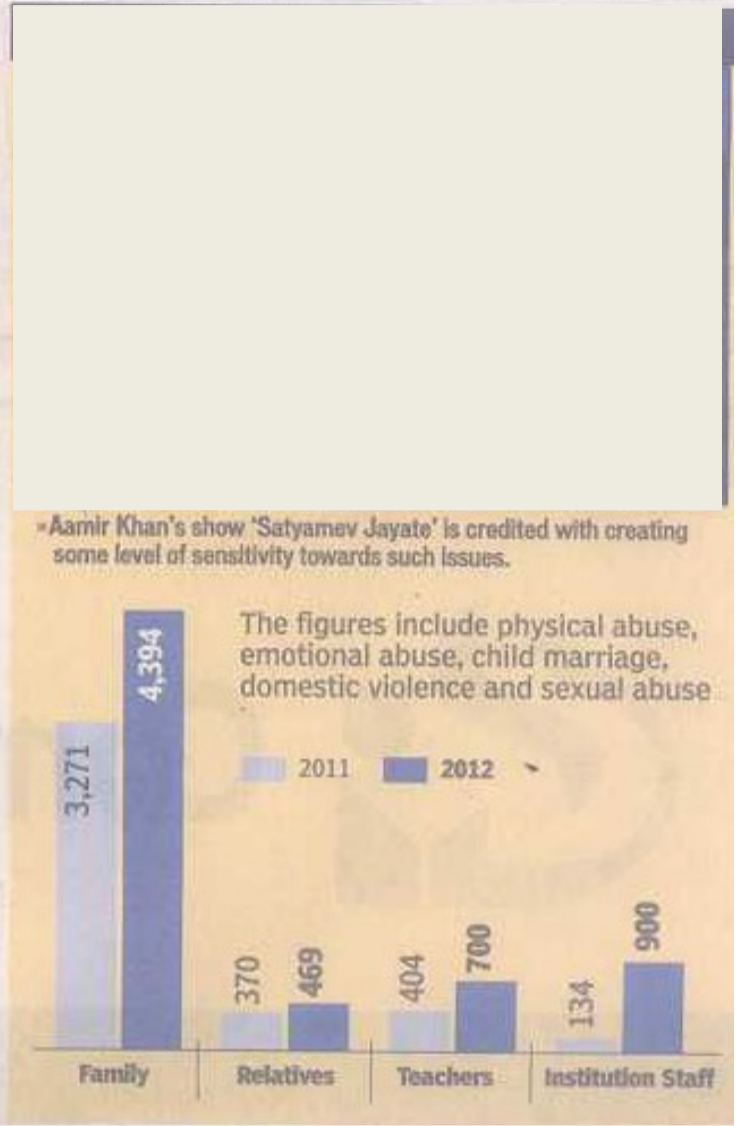
ally impaired girl was being sexually abused by her 51-year-old teacher. She confided about her trauma to parents who called child helpline number — 1098. The accused was arrested but it took months for the girl to recover from the mental and physical pain.

For 15-year-old Sunita, resident of Uttar Pradesh, sexual abuse by her father was a regular affair. A chance to watch Aamir Khan on television not only gave her the helpline number but also courage to make the call. And it helped. She was rescued, counseled for months and sent to safe custody in a woman protection home.

These are some 12,000 child abuse cases reported with Childline Foundation in 2012 as against 6,316 reported in 2011 and 4,227 in 2010. The most number of complaints were about physical, emotional and sexual abuses and in about half of the cases family members and relatives were the alleged culprits. Then come teachers and institutional staff.

Child psychologist Sheelja Sen wants parents to educate their children when it comes to protecting oneself from abuse. "The kind of attention such topics are getting from media has forced parents and children to talk about it. Gone are the days when children undergoing abuse were hushed by their parents," she said.

This new found awareness thanks to programmes such as Satyamev Jayate and Gumrah — focusing on teenager crimes — has helped the younger ones fight for their rights.



Hindustan Times, May 19, 2013, P.10
(Reality Shows)

South civic body to boost reading habit

RIGHT PUSH ₹1.13 crore | Love Reading programme to make students confident readers, North and East corporations to follow suit

Ritam Haider
ritam.haider@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Students of South corporation schools will soon get a chance to improve their reading skills. Katha, a Delhi-based NGO, will train them under a programme titled 'I Love Reading'.

The project will primarily aim at enhancing the reading skills of children in South corporation schools.

"It will make them confident readers and bring about improvements in the grade specific comprehension abilities. It will introduce innovative classroom practices through multi-level mentoring of teachers," an official said.

The standing committee, which will meet on Wednesday, will clear the funds. "Though the project was cleared in 2012, it was not progressing because of non-clearance of funds. Each school will get ₹3.24 lakh," the source said. Around 35 schools will be covered.

Parvinder Kaur, assistant executive director of Katha, said the project will start in July.

"The idea is to bring all children into the elementary education system and to create an environment for lifelong learning. We will provide them with reading kits," Kaur said. She said the system will create room for discussion and sharing of teaching methodologies. Two other corporations — 23 schools in East civic body and 17 in North — will also adopt the project.

Hindustan Times, May 15, 2013, P.7

Explain panchayat action, NCPDR asks Haryana govt

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) has sought an explanation from the Haryana government on the refusal of six village panchayats to send girl children to school due to harassment by boys.

The commission, a national-level statutory body, asked the government for a report after the panchayats in Mahendergarh district declined to send teenage girls to school recently. "The status of girls and women in the state has been

The status of girls and women in the state has been a matter of serious concern.
VINOD KUMAR TIKOO
NCPDR member

a matter of serious concern. There is a need to change the mindset of the people," NCPDR member Vinod Kumar Tikoo told Hindustan Times.

He said the state authorities also needed to take steps to avoid a repeat of the Jind incident, in which a teacher was

held on Thursday on charges of raping a girl student of a government school in the district.

Last week, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), taking suo motu cognizance of media reports on the decision of the Mahendergarh panchayats, had issued notice to the Haryana chief secretary and director general of police, seeking their reply in four weeks.

The girls, roughly 400 in number, had to face harassment on their way home from school and the police failed to act in the matter.

Hindustan Times, May 21, 2013, P.17
(NCPDR)

Child rights body wants probe into abduction ring

Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has sought help from Delhi Police to investigate a child kidnapping racket. The racketeers drug these children with over-the-counter drugs such as cough syrups and force them to beg on the streets. DCPCR has already

written to the senior officers of Delhi Police, seeking a probe into the complaints made by Common Cause, an NGO.

Petitioner Kamal Kant Jaisal has submitted pictorial evidence of his claims. "Scenes reminiscent of the appalling situation being created by the beggar mafia and recently depicted in reports from Bangalore and

Mumbai can be seen at almost every traffic signal or roundabout in the capital. To draw your attention to the plight of these children, we have gathered photographs of a couple of road intersections which show sedated children being used for begging...

...The enclosed photographs should suffice to spur the Commission into action.

The findings of the investigation should help in devising appropriate remedial and punitive measures to wipe out this shameful blot on our national conscience," the letter said.

The "mafia" is apparently in touch with the police and local government who are paid *hafta* (levy) to turn a blind eye to the presence of beggars. The mafia gives li-

cences for begging. An outsider has to pay daily or weekly *hafta* to operate there. "Every signal, roundabout or market area belongs to one family or group of beggars who control it. Nobody from outside can come and beg there without a fee levied by the contractor which runs it," said a senior police official who did not wish to be named.

Times of India, May 5, 2013, P.9

(DCPCR-Child Kidnapping)

Poor Economics: What Street Kids Bank On...

They not only have their own accounts but also make financial plans and budgets

SANJURAO

The rag-pickers' colony at Jama Masjid in Delhi is as squalid as one would imagine. Children in rags and tatters are ubiquitous. There are no shanties or even make-shift huts, just human beings living on their mats without a roof over their heads, poorer than the pavement dwellers. The mats at Jama Masjid are frayed and the blankets are probably ridden with bedbugs. Fifteen children sat on one of the blankets - some peered into notebooks, and some pored over pictures. I saw a little boy, about six years old, scurry over to a social worker, he gave her a two-rupee coin. She made an entry in a long log-book; the boy signed his name and then produced a small notebook from his pocket, where he and the social worker proceeded to make the same entry. After some inquiries, I discovered that these children are members of the Jama Masjid Child Development Khazana (CDK). A *Khazana* is a treasury: no different from a bank - a word borrowed from the Italian word *banca* or 'bench counter.' Centuries ago, Venetian bankers sat on benches, conducting financial transactions. Just the way the CDK children do today.

This Khazana has a balance of ₹19,482 - money saved by the 86 members of the CDK. The group has elected from amongst themselves two managers - a 12-year-old and a 13-year-old. These teenagers are in charge of a cash register and a ledger while every member of the CDK keeps a savings passbook. The children deposit anywhere between a few rupees to over ₹100 at a time. They also make withdrawals between ₹20 and ₹500 at any time. According to the detailed accounts in the cashbook, the reasons for withdrawals include the need to purchase medicines, food or clothes, or to help the family meet daily expenses. Every withdrawal and deposit is signed by the concerned child. The ledger keeps a page-by-page record of each child's account activity. Around 30 children consistently update their accounts and account activity varies from month to month.

Before the CDK, there was no place for children to save their money. They spent their meagre income immediately. The money was spent mostly on food, sometimes to watch movies. Now and then, some of the children would resort to leaving their money with their respective employers for safe-keeping; the latter would not pay interest, but charge a fee. Today the children not only have their own safe accounts but they can also make financial plans and budgets for themselves.

As a rule, the CDK refuses to accept money that children earn by begging; only money that is earned by school-going kids who work as rag-pickers, sweepers at res-

taurants, *dhabe* workers, those selling water in poor areas. Some of the children receive pocket money from their parents and deposit it in the bank. Upon turning 18, the children cease to be members of the CDK. Then, the CDK teaches them how to register at mainstream banks and open accounts with them. As adults, they are now permitted to open and

operate formal bank accounts.

CDKs are set up by child rights advocates - social workers who trek around slums and garbage dumps where they connect with poor people and their children. By engaging with the parents and community members including the police and the municipal corporation, they obtain support for their work and then try to convince parents to send their children to contact points. At first, the CDK programme started as a simple savings scheme; but as children started flocking to the contact points, the social workers took the opportunity to run other programmes at the contact points including life skills programmes, health education, sports activities and cultural events. There is a night outreach programme for children who are too busy to go to the contact point during the day.

CDK is the initiative of the Butterflies Programme with Street and Working Children in Delhi. The CDK initiative started in 2001 in Delhi and since then, other NGOs and foundations have picked up the concept.

CDKs now have a presence in Orissa, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Mumbai, Kerala, Ladakh, Ghaziabad, Bihar and even in other countries - Nepal, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka. Plans are under way to set up CDKs in Ghana and Tajikistan as well. Jama Masjid is only one of Butterflies' nine CDK contact points in Delhi - the others are at Nizamuddin Dargah, INA, Okhla Mandi, Nizamuddin Station, Chandni Chowk, Kashmiri Gate, Sadar Bazaar and Haathi Park. Butterflies keep one account that maintains the balances from all nine contact points.

It was curious and heartening to stand by and witness as poor children recreate the Venetian *bancas* of the old, as they take stock of their financial futures.

(The writer is with the Excalibur Foundation in Bangalore)

Economic Times, May 1, 2013, P.22

(CDK-Street Children)

1.3 Education/Education System (School Mapping/Child Helpline Number/Nursery Admission/Tuition Fee/Free Books/RTE/SSA/Health Education/ Health Education/ Secondary Education/CBSE-Circular)



Rajasthan Patrika, May 26, 2013, P.12
(School Mapping)



Deccan Herald, May 25, 2013, P.7
(Child Helpline Number)



Dainik Jagran (H), May 29, 2013, P.8
(Awards- School Toppers)



Hindustan Times, May 17, 2013, P.2
(Nursery Admissions)

Why don't the poor get free books, uniforms?

High Court asks Delhi Government to respond

Nirnimesh Kumar

NEW DELHI: A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Delhi Government on a public interest litigation alleging its failure to provide free books and uniforms to poor students studying in the Capital's unaided private schools.

Issuing the notice, the Bench comprising Justice Dar- mar Murugesan and Justice Jayant Nath directed the Government to file a reply to the petition by August 7.

Khagesh Jha, counsel for the petitioner Justice for All, a non-government organisation, submitted that getting free books and uniforms was the right of the economically- weaker students of these unaided private schools under the

- "Under RTE Act, poor kids from unaided private schools must receive free books, uniforms"
- Schools getting reimbursements from Govt, though they are not providing two items: NGO

Right to Education Act. All the unaided private schools here, however, were violating Section 3(2) of the Act and Rule 8 of the Delhi Right to Education Rules which conferred a right upon these students to get free books and uniforms from the schools they were studying in.

The petitioner further said that the schools did not provide the two items on their accounts as they were entitled for reimbursement at the rate of spending by the Government on the students studying in its own schools and the dif-

ferential, if any, in the expenditure had to be borne by the private school managements.

Though these schools were receiving reimbursements from the Government, they were not providing the two items to the students.

The Court had in 2011 directed the Delhi Government Directorate of Education to come up with guidelines on providing the two items to the students but it failed to do so, resulting in denial of the two articles to the students, the petitioner said.

Hindu, May 30, 2013, P. 6

(Free Books)

स्कूलों में 9वीं कक्षा से व्यावसायिक शिक्षा अनिवार्य बाध्यता नहीं : सीबीएसई

नयी दिल्ली, (भाषा): केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (एनबीईकेएफ) के तहत नौवीं कक्षा से विद्यालयों में नौवीं कक्षा से कौशल पर आधारित व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रम शुरू कर रहा है, लेकिन उसने स्पष्ट किया है कि स्कूलों पर इन पाठ्यक्रमों को इसी सत्र से अनिवार्य रूप से लागू करने की बाध्यता नहीं होगी। बोर्ड ने इस पाठ्यक्रम को लागू करने को इच्छुक स्कूलों की मदद के लिए कुछ निजी शिक्षा प्रदाताओं की पहचान भी की है।

केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि स्कूलों में नौवीं कक्षा से कुछ व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करने का परिपत्र जारी होने के बाद कई स्कूलों ने बोर्ड के समक्ष कई सवाल उठाए हैं। इन सवालों के मद्देनजर बोर्ड यह स्पष्ट करना चाहता है कि इन व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रमों को इसी सत्र से लागू करने की स्कूलों की बाध्यता नहीं होगी और इच्छुक स्कूल

राष्ट्रीय व्यावसायिक शिक्षा पात्रता ढांचा (एनबीईकेएफ) के तहत नौवीं कक्षा से कौशल विकास से जुड़े चार में से कोई एक कोर्स लागू कर सकते हैं।

अधिकारी ने बताया कि एनबीईकेएफ के तहत नौवीं कक्षा से स्कूल स्तर पर चार कोर्स शुरू किये जा रहे हैं जिसमें खुदग, आटोमोबाइल, सुरक्षा और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विषय शामिल हैं।

■ कई स्कूलों द्वारा उठाए गए सवालों पर बोर्ड का स्पष्टीकरण

उन्होंने कहा कि इन कोर्स को पांच नियमित अकादमिक विषयों के साथ छोटे वैकल्पिक विषय के रूप में शुरू किया जा सकता है। बोर्ड ने कहा है कि उच्च माध्यमिक स्तर पर वह संबद्ध स्कूलों से 40 व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रमों में से कम से कम एक पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करने को

प्रोत्साहन देगा। बोर्ड ने इस उद्देश्य के लिए 35 कौशल ज्ञान प्रदाताओं (एसकेपी) की पहचान की है और स्कूल इनके साथ 9वीं से 12वीं कक्षा में व्यावसायिक शिक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए सहयोग कर सकते हैं।

नौवीं से 12 वीं कक्षा में पढ़ाने के लिए जिन व्यावसायिक पाठ्यक्रमों की पहचान की गई है, उनमें खुदग, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी, सुरक्षा, आटोमोबाइल, बैंकिंग, बीमा, आतिथ्य, पर्यटन, मास मीडिया, मीडिया प्रोडक्शन, स्वास्थ्य, सौंदर्य, संगीत, डिजाइन आदि विषय शामिल हैं।

बोर्ड ने स्कूलों को व्यावसायिक शिक्षा प्रदान करने में मदद के लिए 35 शिक्षा प्रदाताओं को पैनेल में शामिल किया है।

सीबीएसई स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों को सामान्य विषयों के साथ दक्षता आधारित कौशल विकास पाठ्यक्रम चुनने का विकल्प होगा। इस पहल का मकसद बच्चों को स्कूलों में समाप्त करने के बाद रोजगार प्राप्त करने में मदद करना है।

Punjab Kesari, May 22, 2013, P.4

(Vocational Training-Clarification)

सेंट्रल स्कूलों में 8वीं तक के छात्रों से फीस वसूली गलत

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। राजधानी में केन्द्रीय विद्यालयों द्वारा पहली से आठवीं कक्षा तक के बच्चों से फीस वसूली जाने को आरटीई का उल्लंघन बताते हुए सोशल ज्यूरिस्ट संस्था ने हाईकोर्ट में याचिका दायर की है। याचिका में हाईकोर्ट से मांग की गई है कि वह केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन (केवी) को निर्देश दे कि सत्र 2010 से 2013 के दरमियान इन बच्चों से वसूली गयी फीस को वह 12 फीस प्रति वार्षिक ब्याज की दर से वापस करे।

सोशल ज्यूरिस्ट संस्था की अध्यक्ष एडवोकेट कुसुम शर्मा की तरफ से दायर याचिका में कहा गया है कि आरटीई कानून 2009 में लागू हो गया था, जिसके अनुसार पहली से आठवीं कक्षा तक के बच्चों को मुफ्त शिक्षा पाने का अधिकार है। याचिका में आगे कहा गया है कि आरटीई कानून व यूएन कन्वेंशन, जिसमें बच्चों के अधिकार संबंधी निर्देश दिए गए हैं

- सोशल ज्यूरिस्ट संस्था ने हाईकोर्ट में दायर की याचिका
- कोर्ट से की केन्द्रीय विद्यालयों को फीस लौटाने का निर्देश देने की मांग



के तहत भी इन बच्चों से फीस नहीं वसूली जा सकती है। सोशल ज्यूरिस्ट संस्था के सलाहकार एडवोकेट अशोक अग्रवाल ने कहा कि केवी स्कूलों ने न सिर्फ इन बच्चों से फीस वसूली है, बल्कि सत्र 2013-14 से फीस भी बढ़ा दी है। राजधानी के करीब 50 केन्द्रीय विद्यालयों में पहली से 12वीं कक्षा तक के विद्यार्थियों की संख्या एक लाख है। शालीमार बाग स्थित केवी

स्कूल का उदाहरण देते हुए कहा गया है कि वहां सत्र 2012-13 से फर्स्ट क्लास के बच्चों से 720 रुपए प्रतिमाह फीस व विकास निधि के तौर पर 150 रुपए प्रतिमाह अलग से लिए जा रहे थे। नए सत्र से विकास निधि के नाम पर 300 रुपए प्रतिमाह वसूले जा रहे हैं। याचिका में बताया गया कि चार तरह के केवी स्कूल हैं। पहला तो सिविल सेक्टर के लिए दूसरा डिफेंस सेक्टर के लिए और तीसरा पब्लिक सेक्टर के लिए। चौथी तरह का केवी उच्च शिक्षा के लिए है। पीठ से मांग की गई कि आरटीई एक्ट 2009 व भारतीय संविधान की धारा 14, 15, 21, 21ए तथा 38 के तहत केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन को निर्देश दिया जाए कि वह आठवीं कक्षा तक के बच्चों से फीस न वसूले। इसके अलावा सत्र 2010 से 2013 के दरमियान इन बच्चों से वसूली गई फीस 12 फीस प्रति वार्षिक ब्याज के साथ लौटाई जाए।

Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 8, 2013, P.9

(Tuition Fee)

CM promises legal backing for plan to fund girls' education

DC CORRESPONDENT
RAJAHMUNDRY, MAY 5

Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy vowed to intensify efforts to bring out a legislation on the recently launched welfare scheme "Bangaru Thalli", meant to benefit the girl child during the Assembly Session in June.

Addressing a public meeting at Eluru in West Godavari on Sunday, the

CM explained how the scheme would benefit girls born after May 1, 2013.

He said that after the birth of a girl, she would bring in a lot of money under various schemes.

From the date of her birth, the girl's mother would be given ₹1,000 if the delivery was taken up at a government hospital. If she is taken to an anganwadi centre, ₹1,500 would be given towards nutrition

and education per annum. From Classes I to V, the girl will be provided with financial assistance worth ₹2,000 per annum and from Classes VI to X, she will be given ₹3,000 and for pursuing Classes XI and XII, she will be given ₹3,500.

The CM said that if the girl completes her intermediate, she will be given ₹50,000 and ₹1 lakh will be given on her graduation.

Deccan Chronicle, May 6, 2013, P.4

(Girls Education)

Activists blame govt, schools for poor RTE implementation

BANGALORE: Student and child rights activists banded together at the Legislator's Home on Tuesday, to demand that the government take a more active role in implementing the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

Coming together at a symposium on RTE implementation, the activists also flayed private schools for misusing several clauses of the Act to their benefit.

The activists also demanded that the government evolve more stringent mechanisms to monitor private schools, several of which have been fleecing parents by charging exorbitant fees and refusing to implement RTE.

The State secretary of the Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samithi (DSS), Mayalli Shankar, who took part in the meet, observed that private schools have been mushrooming like corporate houses in the State.

"We need the participation of the people in raising our voices against this system of education. While the government schools are beginning to shut down, more private schools are emerging. A common school system must be set up and the numerous boards of education must be abolished," he said.

'Private schools favoured'
Many activists were alarmed that the government seems to favour private schools.

"If one takes a look at the education department circulars over the last few months, all are in favour of private schools. Out of 45 circulars on the RTE, more than 40 are related to the reservation provision. Not much has been said about im-



plementation of the other aspects of RTE at all," said Kumar Sringeri, Assistant Project Coordinator, Centre for Child and the Law at National Law School of India University.

Sringeri also pointed out that community mobilisation is not possible only through School Development Monitoring Committees (SDMC). The training given to SDMC members is very poor.

Hence, one does not see good participation of members in SDMC meetings. Parents, who are asked to be part of these meetings, cannot take part in it most times as they cannot afford to forego their day's wages," he said.

Palakshaiah, the former deputy director of public instructions and consultant to the department of Public Instruction, felt that the RTE Act was well designed, but problems are arising due to school administrators misusing its provisions.

While RTE reservation was meant to help students from

economically weaker families, many private schools have attempted to circumvent the spirit of the Act by charging fees for sports, uniform, shoes and other extra curricular activities within the school. "In this way, private schools are defeating the purpose of the Act," Palakshaiah said. The best way to tackle this is to strengthen government schools to a point where people will choose them over private institutions, he added.

Passing the buck

Manjunath, a member of the Primary School Teachers' Association criticised the government for trying to pass the buck on parents by asking them to register complaints in case a school did not comply with the norms.

"The government itself should see to it that the schools abide by the laws," he said. "Not everybody might be in a position to approach government offices and file complaints."

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, May 29, 2013, P.2

(RTE)

SSA method harming children's education

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 15 - The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO), Guwahati District Committee while expressing serious concern over the quality of education in the State, said that the approach to teaching and learning promoted by Sarva Siksha Abhijan has been extremely damaging to the very foundation of a child's education.

It needs to be mentioned

here that the policy of no detention up to class VIII has come under severe criticism from a section of educationists who have pointed out that already irreparable damage has been inflicted on the lives of the young people through such a methodology.

"Since the introduction of the right of children to free and compulsory education and the process of its implementation, we have been asserting time and again that the policy of no

detention up to class VIII which has been made an integral part of the Right to Education Act will be detrimental to the future of a child," said the stu-

'A student may not be motivated to work hard to learn if he/she is aware that promotion to next grade is guaranteed'

dent body adding that the 253rd report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee of Human Re-

source Development Ministry has substantiated its concern.

"The report clearly mentions that a student may not be motivated to work hard to learn if he/she is aware that promotion to the next grade is guaranteed," said AIDSO.

Stressing that the Prime Minister of the country should look into this matter, the AIDSO insisted that the Right to Education Act must be amended at the earliest to save the lives of millions of children

from disastrous consequences.

"We also demand that the extremely damaging teaching and learning methodology promoted by Sarva Siksha Abhijan which we feel has a major role in the decline of standard of education must be done away with at the earliest," insisted the AIDSO.

On the other hand, in the backdrop of increasing crime against women, the student body has demanded a ban on obscene and pornographic websites, advertisements and films, making self defence training compulsory for girl students, etc.

Assam Tribune, May 16, 2013, P.5

(SSA)

English to woo more students to TN schools

Jayalithaa government's decision to introduce English medium in 3,000 more government elementary schools and 300 higher secondary schools in the state so as to boost admissions in government schools has received overwhelming response from the public.

According to a Chennai parent Sumathy, several government and local body schools in urban areas had adequate infrastructure whereas numerous private schools lacked playgrounds.

"Even as the state government schools had good infrastructure, there were no English medium sections. Now with the introduction of English medium, we are sure that the state schools will attract more students", she said.

Exuding confidence that the enrolment in government schools would improve with the state government's freebies to students, Saravanan, another parent, pointed out that with implementation of samacheer kalvi (common schooling system) in the state, syllabus makes no difference and so students would prefer to study in English medium at government schools that charge no fee.

A state school education department official noted that the government pursuing a noble cause aimed at providing quality education to all children in the state, has allotted ₹16,965.30 crore in this

year's budget for school education, which is 16.57 per cent higher than last year's allocation.

The government under J. Jayalithaa has tasted several successes since the previous year in terms of quality of education, implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, increased enrolment of children—particularly girl children,

return of the out-of-school children, differently-abled children, bridging of the social and gender gap and the appointment of teachers. In the past, only the 'elite' students in the CBSE schools had the opportunity to get trained in Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system of education, but with Ms Jayalithaa's vision even a rickshaw puller's kid in a

government school in a remote village now has the opportunity to get quality education through CCE pattern.

With an aim to develop a knowledge society by providing a holistic development to children, the state government introduced trimester pattern to lighten down their book-load. This has been appreciated at the national level and became a role model for many other states to emulate.

To bring down the dropout rate in government schools, the state government has also provided four sets of uniforms, laptops, textbooks, notebooks, school bags, educational kits, footwear, atlas and special cash incentive for the children.

With an aim to develop a knowledge society by providing a holistic development to children, the state government introduced trimester pattern to lighten down their book-load.

Deccan Chronicle, May 16, 2013, P.8

(Book Load- Trimester Pattern)

Curriculum for wellness

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

If the proposal finally materialises, students in schools across the country will be soon taught about communicable and non-communicable diseases at length. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already tied up with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and is in talks with the State governments asking them to work out the modalities to bring in 'health education' as a subject in school.

Speaking about this latest initiative, Director General (Health Services) Dr. Jagdish Prasad said: "This subject will be taught in middle school and senior classes and we have already prepared the syllabus. There is also an attempt to try and introduce the students to the best practices followed across the world in terms of prevention of lifestyle associated diseases."

Dr. Prasad said that the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare is currently preparing the course framework, adding that diabetes control and management will be a major part of the syllabus.

He noted that 'health edu-

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is preparing to introduce health education as a compulsory subject in schools

cation' will be introduced as a compulsory subject with both theory and practical components and will also focus on generating awareness about the need to eat healthy, exercise, stay away from alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse. "It will give students a holistic view on health."

Dr. Prasad was speaking on the sidelines of a recent event organised by CII and pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly, which will be coming together to form a national platform for creating new ideas and approaches for controlling and managing growing incidence of diabetes in the country. This initiative will be supported by the Union Ministry of Health.

Giving an insight into the diabetes burden on the country, Dr. Prasad said: "India has over 61 million diabetic patients today as against 50.8 million last year, an increase

of over 12 per cent. Estimates put that by 2030, India's diabetes burden will cross 100 million, as against 87 million estimated earlier. The International Diabetes Federation's (IDF) fifth diabetes atlas says that India's diabetes prevalence in the age-group of 20-79 is 9.2 per cent and at that rate India is only second to China in terms of incidence of diabetes. In 2012, diabetes caused 983,000 deaths in India and that way the largest contributor of mortality."

Stating that the government was associating itself with this new initiative to ensure that there is enough awareness about controlling lifestyle diseases, including diabetes, he said: "Governmental delivery systems at the States and the Centre are not sufficient to combat the growing incidence of diabetes. We need a multi-stakeholder approach to address the present and future challenges posed by the disease."

Talking about the steps being taken by the government for diabetes control and management, Dr. Prasad said that screening of people is continuing throughout the country, both in urban and rural areas. The incidence of diabetes is more in the urban centres on account of changing lifestyles. The Centre is supporting the State governments not only for screening but also for meeting the expenses for diabetic treatment. In this regard, he informed that for every 5,000 people in rural areas, one glucometer is being given free for screening and diabetic related treatment is free.

Hindu, May 16, 2013, P. 8

(Health Education)

Health to be included in school curriculum

Sidhartha Dutta

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NEW DELHI: Starting next academic session, students from classes 4-10 across the country will study "health" as a part of their school curriculum.

"The course will be introduced by the next academic year. The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, which is preparing the course framework, will take 4-6 months to complete it," said Dr Jagdish Prasad, Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health.

"It's being done in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) and it has agreed to introduce the course," he added.

The idea behind is to help protect children against infectious and non-infectious diseases. "Children should learn health basics, such as the harmful effects of smoking and drinking or the amount

THE IDEA BEHIND IS TO HELP PROTECT CHILDREN AGAINST INFECTIOUS AND NON-INFECTIOUS DISEASES

of calories they should eat at school," said Dr Prasad on the eve of CII's two-day summit on "Non Communicable Diseases — Strengthening for Diabetes Care" held in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, school principals seem to have welcomed the move. "It's a good idea. Health is wealth. It should definitely be a part of the school curriculum," said Usha Ram, principal, Laxman Public School.

"No announcement has been made yet. It sounds good in theory but the syllabus should be carefully framed and school principals involved in its drafting," said Suman Kumar, principal, Blue Bells International.

6 Haryana villages decide not to send girls to school to avoid harassment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH | MAY 11

THE DECISION taken by the panchayats will affect 400 girl students

PERTURBED over the recurring instances of sexual harassment of teenaged girls, panchayats of six villages in Haryana's Mahendergarh district have decided not to send their girls to school from Monday.

The decision, taken on Friday by the panchayats, which met at Pal village, will affect 400 girl students. The meeting was chaired by a retired DSP, Amar Singh.

According to reports, the panchayats called for a meeting following two separate incidents on May 6, when two girls were allegedly teased by some youths on their way home from school. In one of the cases, the girl had raised an alarm, following which the youths fled the spot. Locals had raised the matter with the village panchayat and lodged a complaint with the police. Following this, a youth was arrested.

In wake of the increasing number of harassment cases, residents of six villages including Pal, Gada-

nia, Kherki, Nihalawas, Kuksi and Palah met and condemned the inaction by the police and school authorities in ensuring safety of girl students.

Expressing "deep concern over the safety and security of the village girls, who bear the brunt of unscrupulous elements", the panchayat members unanimously decided that they will not allow the girls of six villages to attend school from Monday.

Mahendergarh's neighbouring district Rewari had witnessed a similar situation a few months ago when around 50 girls were stopped from attending school because of the persistent problem of sexual harassment. Police had arrested three youths in this connection.

Hindustan Times, May 7, 2013, P.3
(Health Education)

HC ISSUES NOTICE TO GOVT ON RTE 'VIOLATION'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

The Delhi high court on Wednesday issued notice to the city government on a petition alleging that it had failed to provide free books and uniforms to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) students studying in unaided private schools, thus violating the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

A division bench of Chief Justice D. Murugesan and Justice Jayant Nath sought the response of the Delhi government and its education department by August 7. The petition, filed by the NGO, Justice for All, alleged that almost all unaided private schools in the city are "grossly" violating provisions of the RTE Act and the Delhi RTE Rules which give the right to EWS students to get free books and uniforms.

It said schools are receiving reimbursement but do not supply free books and uniforms to students of EWS category.

New Indian Express, May 12, 2013, P.8
(School Attendance/Sexual Harassment)

Asian Age, May 30, 2013, P.1
(RTE)

Secondary education under 12th Plan

■ Dr Dulumoni Goswami

Secondary education is a crucial stage in the educational hierarchy as it prepares students for higher education and also for the world of work; it also prepares teachers for primary education. The secondary education stage is the last stage of formal education for a large majority of the students in India. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to strengthen this stage by providing greater access and also by providing quality in a significant way. As mentioned in the Working Group Report on Secondary and Vocational Education, 12th Five-Year Plan, while provision of primary education for all as guaranteed by the Right to Education Act 2009 could ensure significant improvement in the overall status of human development, it is unlikely that the country will significantly succeed in reducing poverty and creating a more equitable society without adequately focussing on improving secondary education.

Secondary education suffers from various problems like low access, low participation low quality and the issue of equity. The government of India has made special emphasis on access, equity and quality aspects of secondary education sector in response to the high social demand and increased completion rate in

elementary education. Accordingly, the Government of India launched Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in March 2009 all over the country. The objective of the Abhiyan is to provide universal access to secondary education by 2017 and achieve universal retention by 2020. Its objective is to achieve Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 75% for Class IX to XII within five years duration by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance, i.e., 5 to 7 kilo-

metre of every habitation. During 2007-08, the total number of secondary schools (Class IX-X) in the country was 1,13,824 and higher secondary schools (Class XI-XII) was 59,166 with an enrolment of 2,82,17,697 and 1,63,57,779 respectively. The Gross Enrolment Ratio was 58.15 at the secondary level and 33.48 at the higher secondary level. Whereas GER (Class IX-X) for SC and ST was 51.9 and 25.8 respectively, which was indicative for a substantial gap in these groups.

The 12th Five-Year Plan is guided by the vision of RMSA to provide access to quality secondary education for all. The vision of secondary education is to make good quality education – available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14-18 years. With the vision in mind, the following targets are set to be achieved during the Plan period – (a) universal access to secondary education with GER of 100%, (b) enhancing retention of children in secondary classes, (c) achieving of 75% GER at the higher secondary classes by 2017. The Gross Enrolment Ratio at the secondary level in Assam was 46.4 (43.1 for boys and 49.9 for girls) during the year 2009-10 and gradually increased to 57 (55 for boys and 59 for girls) during 2010-11 and again increased upto 72 (70 for boys and 74 for girls) during the year 2011-12 after launching RMSA. Low access and inadequate number of secondary schools are the major challenges to meet the target of universalization of secondary education in Assam at the end of the Plan. As per Secondary Education Management Information System (SEMIS) data 2010-11, the total number of secondary schools in Assam was 2,607 and higher secondary schools 645 while the government has tar-

geted to increase the number of secondary schools upto 9887 and higher secondary schools upto 7,744 till 2017. It means that there is gap of 7,280 secondary schools and 7,099 higher secondary schools which need to be established within five years duration. Similarly 6.94 lakh students at the secondary level and 2.25 lakh students at the higher secondary level have been enrolled as per SEMIS data 2010-11. During the Plan, the Government of Assam has projected 15.82 lakh enrolment at the secondary level and 12.39 lakh enrolment at the higher secondary level till 2017. It means that a gap of 8.88 lakh students at the secondary level and 10.14 lakh students at the higher secondary level will have to be filled up.

During the Plan period, the Government of Assam has targeted to develop the secondary education infrastructure in the State. These include construction of 1755 girls common rooms, construction of 2527 boys common rooms, construction of 42,916 additional classrooms, 891 boys toilets, 1396 separate toilets for girls, 2845 science laboratories and 1078 computer laboratories in the secondary schools. However, it is very much important that the quality of construction is properly maintained. Earlier experiences show that many times constructions were neither as per norms nor the quality was maintained. Financial irregularities also harmed the quality of construction. Therefore, apart from the government machinery, the local community, school managing committee must look after the matter seriously. Regular monitoring is a must.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has identified 3479 blocks all over the country as educationally-backward blocks (EBB) and special schemes are being implemented more particularly in these blocks. Various special schemes for secondary education includes model school scheme, girls hostel scheme, ICT@ school scheme, inclusive education for disabled at secondary stage, scheme for vocational education, national means-cum-merit scholarship scheme, appointment of language teacher, etc. In Assam, out of 178 blocks, 81 blocks have been identified as educationally-backward ones and 62 model schools were sanctioned during the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 for which an amount of Rs 102.54 crore has been released by the Central Government as the central share.

Teacher training is one of the important issues at the secondary education level which needs to be addressed. Out of 23,299 teachers at secondary level, only 6,345 and at the higher secondary level out of 3,118 teachers, only 1,414 teachers are professionally trained. It means that about 70% of the secondary school teachers in Assam are untrained. The State Government has conducted a TET for appointment of 4500 teachers in the secondary schools. Although 45,752 candidates appeared in the TET, only 3117 (6.81%) could clear it. Consequently, the Government will not be able to fill up all the vacant post in the secondary schools. The training of the qualified candidates will again be an important issue.

Assam Tribune, May 29, 2013, P.6

(Secondary Education)

Schools unaware of new guidelines

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gurgaon: While the CBSE has asked schools to widely publicize its recent guidelines for protection of children from sexual offences, a majority of city schools are still clueless.

A recent CBSE circular says schools are not only liable to make their management and staff aware of the act but also makes it clear that it is the responsibility of the school to report and avoid such offences. It highlights that any exploitation by the school staff makes them liable for severe punishment.

"We stress that teachers, management and all employees of the institution be made aware of provisions of the act, some of which make it their duty to report instances of child abuse. Sexual offences by persons in ownership, management, staff and positions of trust and authority will invite higher punishment as per provisions of the act. Awareness shall help in preventing such offences and help children from exploitation," reads the circular issued in March 2013.

"Children's security on the premises is the school's responsibility. The authorities irrespective of affiliated boards are accountable for any exploitation or harm rendered to child in school premises and school hours" said R.J. Khanderao, regional director of CBSE. Vipula Saxena, principal of Mee-nakshi Public School, said she cannot confirm about the circular. "We have counselling section and our staff-students are aware about this", added Vipula.

Times of India, May 22, 2013, P.9

(CBSE-Circular)

1.4 Girl Child/Child Sex Ratio/Female Foeticide (*Sex Ratio-Haryana/M.P.*)

Girls killed in rural India too, but gender ratio improves a bit

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: People in rural India too are killing their unborn daughters, pulling down the child sex ratio across the country to its lowest since 1961 but the general sex ratio has moved up 10 points to 943 females for 1000 males.

The sex ratio in the 0-6 age group brings out the recent changes in the attitude and outlook towards the girl child and indicates the future trend of sex ratio in the population. Over the last 10 years, the child sex ratio has declined by 8 points to 919 females for 1000 males.

CENSUS REPORT

- Delhi (814) has recorded the lowest child sex ratio and Chhattisgarh (977) the highest
- Haryana (832) is still at the bottom of the list but is joined by Jammu & Kashmir where child sex ratio plummeted from 941 to 862 over the last decade

to believe that sex selection intervention in rural areas too," Census Commissioner C Chandramouli said. "This is an alarming trend."

The only silver lining on this account is that the general sex ratio has gone up during the last decade, a development that census authorities attribute to the higher life expectancy of women.

Chandramouli added that this was a positive development at a macro level.

But at state or district levels, this would need to be seen in the social context because this also emphasises the need for a good social safety net for the women.

But the 11 point decline to 923 is sharper in rural areas than in urban areas where it reduced by just 1 point to 905.

"The new statistics lead us

Hindustan Times, May 2, 2013, P.9

(*Child Sex Ratio*)

SEX RATIO IMPROVES IN STATE

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, MAY 3

Literacy rate dips

AP figures among the bottom five when it comes to literacy. It has only 67.02 per cent literates. The male and female gap in literacy rate has decreased from 19.89 in 2001 to 15.73 in 2011. Over 69 villages had zero literacy.

Sex ratio in the state has increased from 978 in 2001 to 993 in 2011, which is significantly higher than the national average of 943. But the worrying factor is that the proportion of child population to total population in the state has declined from 13.35 to 10.81 per cent. Child sex ratio that stands at 939 is cause for worry.

Interestingly, rural areas fared better than urban areas in the sex ratio. The city recorded the lowest sex ratio at 954.



Deccan Chronicle, May 4, 2013, P.7

INITIATIVE

Wake up with aid

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

Even as Census 2011 has highlighted a significant drop in the country's child sex-ratio, leave aside an alarming plunge in certain north Indian States, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has approached the Planning Commission for additional fund flow to the State governments to check this unhealthy trend.

In a letter recently written to the Commission's deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, WCD Minister Krishna Tirath noted: "The responsibility of implementation of the action plan for improving the child sex ratio would mainly be on the States; in this context, we request you to provide additional funds to the States under the 'Additional Central Assistance' on basis of their performance in improving the sex-ratio in their respective States."

This move, according to the WCD Ministry, will "motivate States to own up the issue and undertake concrete measures to tackle it. At the same time, it would be imperative to keep a provision of disincentivisation for States not performing well on improving the child sex ratio."

"This, we feel, should be monitored on a concurrent basis at the Central level," said Ms. Tirath. She added that Census 2011 figures



VULNERABLE GIRL CHILDREN: States need to own up. PHOTO: V. RAJU

Additional funds are being sought for State governments to check the plunging child sex ratio

have shown that child sex ratio in India (0-6 years) has dropped from 927 females to 914 females per 1,000 males, the lowest since Independence. "This is indeed a cause of great concern as it indicates our social response and attitude towards the girl child as well as the vulnerable status of women in the country."

The WCD Ministry has been working on the issue as directed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his letter to Chief Ministers in 2011, after a review convened by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister with the concerned sector in May 2011 and the strategic analysis of this issue shared by the Planning Commission.

"Apart from other decisions taken by the inter-ministerial coordination committee, a working group chaired by the Secretary for WCD was constituted for preparing a nation plan of action for improving the child sex ratio, taking into account the recommendations of the National Advisory Council. Various suggestions and recommendations have come up during the process of deliberations which are being used in preparation of the Action Plan," added the Minister.

Hindu, May 17, 2013, P. 8

(*Child Sex Ratio*)



Jansatta (H), May 9, 2013, P.7 (Sex Ratio-M.P.)



Asian Age, May 23, 2013, P.3
(Sex Ratio-Haryana)



Nav Bharat Times (H),
May 23, 2013, P.1
(Sex Ratio-Haryana)

1.5 Child Welfare-other issues

Betrothed before their time

Sarita Brara

"School Chale Hum" is scribbled on the outer walls of every house in Badbeli village of Rajgarh district in Madhya Pradesh but Sheela Soundhiya's hopes of continuing her education were dashed when she was taken off school in Class IV. Last year, she was married off and now she will be sent to her husband's home though she is just about 15 or 16 years old.

"I want to study but no one is listening to me," she says.

Ram Dayal of the same village is in Class IX but he has been married for three years. Shiv Singh Dangi got married when he was 12 years old to Manju who was just ten at that time. There are many other children who are yet to attain adulthood but have been forced into wedlock.

Despite campaigns by voluntary organisations and claims by the State government that plans have been put in place to prevent child marriages, marriages of at least six children aged between 14 to 16 years were fixed in this village on Akshay Tritiya this month. Although the village's anganwadi worker Megha Kumari is quite active and

Despite awareness campaigns, child marriages are still a regular feature in certain parts of Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district

has been approaching the families to cancel these marriages, she says, "There has to be a consistent support system; otherwise it is difficult for an individual to bring the change in the mindset of the villagers who are unwilling to break away from age-old traditions."

At Son Kachh village in the same district, a number of underage boys and girls tied the knot at a mass marriage during the last week of April. Though the organisers claimed that all the couples had attained the legal age for marriage, it was not difficult to find out that at least some of them were not adults. One of the villagers attending the mass marriage admitted that many of the boys are school

students but added that one cannot accept that things will change in a day. He said that 90 per cent of the marriages are fixed when boys and girls are toddlers or five to six years old.

In Khilichipur village, too, child marriages take place every year. "We are no longer marrying the toddlers as was the case earlier because of the law; now we marry them at the age of 13-14 years," says a woman who had come to an annual fair held near the village.

When told that the legal age for marriage of girls is 18 years and for boys is 21 years, they looked with disbelief. "But they are old enough to marry!" exclaims the middle-aged woman.

The Rajgarh district is notorious for child marriages. The Annual Health Survey (2010-11) released last year revealed that 25.9 per cent of males in villages, of which 36.8 per cent is from Rajgarh district, got married before attaining the legal age for marriage. Also, 17.2 per cent girls in the rural areas, of which 30.4 per cent is from Rajgarh, tied the knot

before they were 18 years old.

Most child marriages take place within the communities of the Lodhas, Dangis and Sondhiyas.

But all is not lost. There are villages like Peeplabe in Rajgarh where no child marriage has taken place for the last 20 to 25 years, claim the villagers. Even in Badbeli, there are young boys who are resisting the pressure to marry early. Twenty-one-year-old Balu Singh Dangi, who is preparing for his M.Sc says, "I will not marry till I am economically independent." Even his parents are not forcing him despite pressure from the society.

Another boy Nek Ram Dangi, studying in Class VI, also says that he will not marry before he is 21.

Bhawna, studying in Class VIII from Khilichipur village, says that she wants to become a doctor and will not marry early. But the question is whether her parents will support her. However, that what is important is that many boys and girls in their teens have started questioning the tradition of child marriages.

Hindu, May 24, 2013, P. 8

2. Health and Nutrition issues

2.1 Child/Adolescent Health (Diarrhoea/Rota-virus)

Premature aging of kids sets alarms ringing

Ekatha Ann John | TNN

Chennai: Toddlers with greying hair, an eight-year-old with high blood cholesterol, a pre-adolescent who has the physique of a 20-year-old — the signs are ominous.

Biological clocks in children are ticking rapidly, and the rate at which their organs are aging is faster than their chronological age.

The country's medical fraternity may take pride in improved life expectancy, but the spurt in lifestyle diseases, especially among children, has resulted in premature aging. This means the increased life expectancy doesn't necessarily translate into improved quality of life.

"Every organ in the human body has an age," said

WORRYING SIGNALS



A Number Of Conditions Point To The Fact That Children's Organs Are Aging Faster Than Their Years

- ▶ Hypertension, high blood cholesterol in children
- ▶ Early onset of type-2 diabetes
- ▶ Wearing glasses at an early age
- ▶ Greying hair
- ▶ Earlier signs of facial hair in boys
- ▶ Age of attaining menarche down to 7-10 years from 10-13 years a decade ago

Kousalya Nathan, a lifestyle and anti-aging consultant, who is undertaking a study on premature and adolescent aging. "When a child suffers from lifestyle diseases like cholesterol and diabetes, his or her organs take a beating. So, the functionality of an

eight-year-old child's organs is that of a 30-year-old."

Doctors say premature aging begins from the molecular level with wear and tear being witnessed in the DNA of children. "Cells of children are aging," said Nathan. "This, in turn, is affecting their organs.

The main cause is obesity, while the second is the sedentary lifestyle children lead."

Manifestations of these problems are evident, with children as young as three sporting glasses, early signs of facial hair in boys, and early attainment of menarche.

But doctors say there are no studies to establish it. "We are certainly treating more children with ailments usually associated with adults," said S Balasubramanian, senior paediatrics consultant, Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital in Chennai. "Conditions such as cholesterol, type-2 diabetes and hypertension were seen in adults before. This could lead to stress on organs, but we are yet to do a comprehensive study on

whether it induces aging."

Many doctors, however, say children's organs are aging, though they may be young in terms of years. Genetic factors account for a meagre 20% of premature aging. The main reasons are environmental and dietary. Paediatric obesity, which is reaching epidemic proportions, high stress levels, sedentary and changing lifestyles and various chemicals used in food contribute to premature aging.

"When diabetes sets in at an early stage, the child's blood vessels start stiffening, which happens only in older people," said Vijay Viswanathan, MD of M V Diabetes hospital. "Technically, we are staring at a scenario where the child is aging much faster than his chronological age."

Times of India, May 21, 2013, P.11 (Premature Aging)

One lakh children in India die of diarrhoea annually: Lancet

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Over 1,00,000 children, below the age of 11 months, die of diarrhoea annually in India which is the second leading killer of young children globally, after pneumonia. India accounts for the highest number of diarrhoeal deaths, a latest study has suggested.

A new international study published in the latest edition of the British medical journal *The Lancet* provides the clearest picture yet of the impact and most common causes of diarrhoeal diseases.

The Global Enteric Multi-center Study (GEMS) is the largest study ever conducted on diarrhoeal diseases in developing countries, enrolling more than 20,000 children from seven sites across Asia (including India) and Africa. With approximately 4,57,000 to 8,84,000 hospitalisations and two million outpatient clinic visits each year in Indian children, this study pinpoints the key causes of

Rotavirus has been identified as the main cause of diarrhoeal diseases in infants under 11 months

childhood diarrhoea and suggests a roadmap to save hundreds of thousands of lives.

GEMS, coordinated by the University of Maryland's School of Medicine's Center for Vaccine Development, confirmed rotavirus as the leading cause of diarrhoeal diseases among infants under 11 months across all sites and identified other top causes for which additional research is urgently needed.

GEMS evaluated nearly 40 pathogens to map each one's relative contribution to diarrhoeal disease. Combining data from all seven study countries, GEMS found that approximately one in five children under the age of two suffer from moderate-to-severe diarrhoea (MSD) each year, which increased children's risk of death 8.5 fold and lead to stunted growth

over a two-month follow-up period.

In India, the study was conducted in Kolkata at the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases and overseen by Principal Investigator Dipika Sur. Similar to other GEMS sites, just four pathogens — rotavirus, *Cryptosporidium*, *Shigella*, and *ST-ETEC* — caused the majority of MSD cases in Kolkata. The overall incidence of MSD was higher in Kolkata than at any other study site.

Infants under 11 months at Kolkata showed the highest burden, with roughly 90 episodes of MSD per 100 children each year, nearly double the next highest-burden site Kenya.

"Without a full picture of which pathogens cause the most harm, it has been difficult to make evidence-based

decisions around diarrhoeal disease control," said Dr. Sur. "GEMS will fill in those critical gaps in knowledge and will help in governments to prioritise resources for research and action to reduce the burden of disease," she added.

Expanding access to vaccines for rotavirus could save thousands of lives and help avoid numerous hospitalisations, thereby improving the lives of children and families while simultaneously reducing significant burden on the healthcare costs, the report suggested.

GEMS data suggested that accelerating research on vaccines, treatments and diagnostics for the three other leading pathogens — *Shigella*, *Cryptosporidium* and *ST-ETEC*, a type of *E. coli* — could have a similar impact. Prior to GEMS, *Cryptosporidium* was not considered a major cause of diarrhoeal disease and consequently, there is currently little research on this pathogen underway.

Hindu, May 14, 2013, P. 11 (Diarrhoea)

Affordable healthcare

India announces low-cost vaccine for diarrhoea virus

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Indian researchers on Tuesday claimed to have brought an indigenous vaccine against rotavirus — a pathogen that causes diarrhoea and kills thousands of children each year — close to commercialisation at one-twentieth the price of similar commercial vaccines made by multinational pharmaceutical companies.

While two common vaccines against rotavirus made by GSK and Merck cost around Rs 900 per dose, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech plans to sell the Indian product at Rs 54 (one dollar) per dose. Children need three dosages at sixth, tenth and 14th weeks of their lives.

Developed after 28 years of research, the indigenous vaccine against rotavirus shows



In this file photo, a man attends to a child suffering from diarrhoea outside an hospital in Malda. AFP

promise in clinical trials. The last part of the trial (phase-III) demonstrates 60 per cent efficacy and lesser number of deaths. The two commercial vaccines too have similar efficacy in India.

Diarrhoea is the third leading killer of children in India,

accounting for 13 per cent of all deaths in children below five years and kills an estimated 3,00,000 children each year, almost half of which are caused by rotavirus.

Rotavirus is the leading cause of severe diarrhoea causing 4,57,000 to 8,84,000 hospitalisations, two million outpatient visits and 1,22,000-1,53,000 deaths.

A Global Enteric Multicentre Study — published in the *"Lancet"* on Tuesday — showed one in five children in the developing countries of Asia and Africa below two years of age suffered from moderate-to-severe diarrhoea each year, which not only increased their risk of death 8.5 times more, but also led to stunted growth over a two-month follow-up period.

Conducted on 6,799 infants (aged six to seven weeks at the time of enrolment) at Delhi, Pune and Vellore, the phase-III clinical trial showed 55-60 per cent efficacy. The maximum efficacy was seen in the first year when the babies are most vulnerable.

Mortality rate drops

Though the study was not designed to check drop in mortality, a sharp 20 per cent reduction in mortality was found in the group receiving the vaccine, said former department of biotechnology secretary M K Bhan who discovered the vaccine strain at All India Institute of Medical Sciences way back in 1985. "Instead of 140 deaths we got only 37 deaths," said Gagandeep Kang from Chitran Medical Col-

lege in Vellore who was one of the 400-odd researchers associated with the project.

"This is significant in public health as 25 per cent of all diarrhoeal admissions will be prevented. The case fatality rate was seven per thousand, which is seven times less than what was expected. It is a mono-valent vaccine but will offer cross protection from other strains," Bhan said.

Bharat Biotech would submit its dossier seeking marketing approval to the Drugs Controller General of India in July, said Krishna M Ella, chairman and managing director of the company that invested close to Rs 60 crore in the project. The clinical trials cost between Rs 80-100 crore, which were provided by the government.

Deccan Herald, May 15, 2013, P.14 (Diarrhoea)

Zinc to the rescue

A joint programme by UNICEF and Teck could save the lives of over 150,000 children dying of diarrhoea in India

Aarti Dhar

The lives of over 150,000 children in the country could be saved by a \$5-million-programme launched in India by UNICEF-Canada and Teck under the Zinc Alliance for Child Health (ZACH).

The five-year programme aims at scaling up the use of zinc supplementation and oral rehydration salts (ORS) to treat diarrhoea while strengthening healthcare systems across India.

More children under the age of five years die in India than anywhere else in the world.

One of the leading causes of these deaths is diarrhoea. Currently, only two



DANGEROUS DIARRHOEA: A major cause for child mortality. PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

per cent Indian children have access to zinc and ORS, a cost-effective and proven life-saving diarrhoea treatment. A 10-day course of zinc tablets costs only 30 cents while a sachet of ORS costs

10 cents. The programme is expected to save 50,000 lives annually; Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh together have the highest burden of childhood diar-

rhoea.

The programme also aims to educate health workers and communities while strengthening the local supply chain to ensure zinc and ORS are accessible and that achievements made over the next five years are sustainable in the long term.

"In India, the number of children dying from diarrhoea is particularly dire. As one of the world's largest producers of zinc, we have the ability and knowledge to help address this critical children's health issue," says Doug Horswill, senior vice-president at Teck.

The programme also contributes to the centre's commitment to reduce child deaths through the Call to Action for Child Survival: A Promise Renewed.

The call to action was co-led by the governments of India, Ethiopia and the U.S. with UNICEF's support. It is working to mobilise political leadership to end preventable child deaths through innovative and proven strategies worldwide.

Hindu, May 24, 2013, P. 8

(Diarrhoea)

Now, a desi rotavirus vaccine

Will Help Fight Diarrhoea In Infants; To Cost Around ₹54

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

New Delhi: India's first indigenously developed vaccine against rotavirus, the major cause of diarrhoea deaths among children, was unveiled in the capital on Tuesday. Scientists involved with the project said that the preventive vaccine has cleared all clinical trials and it will be available for sale in the market by next year, subject to clearance from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

The cost of the new vaccine, Rotavac, is likely to be around Rs 54 per dose which is 1/40th of the imported vaccines available in the market at present, said Dr M K Bhan, former secretary, department of biotechnology (DBT) who isolated the rotavirus strain in 1985 while pursuing research at AIIMS.

"Rotavac vaccine is similar to the oral polio drop. It will be given under the same regimen - 6, 10 and 14 weeks. Our trials have shown an efficacy of 56% in severe diarrhoea and 61% in very severe diarrhoea cases. There is no side-effect or safety issue," Bhan added.

The Phase III clinical trial of the vaccine was carried out on 6,799 infants in the country at three sites - a slum cluster in Delhi, a semi-urban locality in Pune and a village near Vellore. The vaccine development has been supported by DBT, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PATH, National Institutes of Health, Centre for Disease Control, and Stanford University. Bharat Biotech invested technical, manufacturing, and financial resources towards vaccine development, said Krishna M Ella, chairman

VIRAL VICTORY

Rotavac, the low-cost diarrhoea vaccine developed by the Union biotechnology department and Bharat Biotech, has cleared the clinical trial. Commercial launch likely by year-end, it may be included in the universal immunization programme

HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

Rotavac is similar to oral polio drop; to be administered to newborn in the 6th, 10th and 14th week. It acts against rotavirus, the main cause of diarrhoea-related deaths in developing countries. Research shows preventive vaccination can save more than 1 lakh children in India annually

₹54 LIKELY COST, 1/40TH OF THE IMPORTED VACCINES



THE TROUBLE

1 Rotavirus infection, a major cause of diarrhoea in children, kills around 1 lakh kids in India every year. Roughly, one child in 242 dies from rotavirus infection before 5 years of age

2 A recent study published in The Lancet shows India has maximum deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases compared to Bangladesh and Pakistan in Asia; and Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and The Gambia in Africa

and managing director of the company

"The trial design included a strong safety net to identify and treat illnesses, especially gastroenteritis, among infants as early as possible," officials said. They said all infants enrolled in the trial received high-quality medical and emergency care during the trial period.

"The results indicate that the vaccine, if licensed, could save the lives of thousands of

children each year in India," K Vijay Raghavan, secretary, department of biotechnology, said.

According to a study in published in The Lancet, Rotavirus is most common causative agent of moderate-to-severe diarrhoea (MSD) among infants below 11 months age group in India.

The study on the causes of severe diarrhoea in young children, which was conducted at seven different sites in

sub-Saharan Africa and South Asian countries including India, found that rotavirus caused one episode of MSD for every four infants each year. Worldwide, rotavirus is responsible for 6.1 lakh childhood deaths out of which more than 80% occur in low-income countries.

"Since traditional measures like sanitation, safe water supply, and hygiene have little influence on its prevention, breastfeeding provides protection only for a limited period during infancy and oral rehydration therapy is difficult in view of associated vomiting; an effective vaccine is the logical choice for prevention," Dr Davendra K Taneja, a public health expert said.

He added that rotavirus is spread from person to person. "Interventions to improve sanitation and hygiene are likely to have a greater impact on diarrhoea due to bacterial and parasiting agents as they are primarily transmitted through contaminated food or water. But to check incidence of diarrhoea caused by rotavirus preventive vaccination is only solution," Taneja wrote written in an article published in the Indian Journal of Public Health.

"We are deeply gratified to have played a role in establishing the safety and efficacy of the Rotavac vaccine," said Anthony S Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the US National Institutes of Health. The experts hope the low-cost vaccine will help overcome childhood deaths in India as well a number of other low-income countries in the world including Kenya and Bangladesh.

Times of India, May 15, 2013, P.5

(Rotavirus/ Diarrhoea)

Low-cost vaccine to keep diarrhoea virus at bay

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

In an important breakthrough, Indian scientists have successfully developed a low-cost vaccine that has proved to be effective in preventing the deadly diarrhoea-causing rotavirus which is responsible for the deaths of over 1.6 lakh children under the age of five in the country annually.

Vaccine producer Bharat Biotech is likely to launch the vaccine 'Rotavac' in the first quarter of 2014 in the market for around ₹50-55 per dose—much cheaper than other rotavirus vaccines. Currently, foreign pharma majors

GlaxoSmithKline's Rotarix and Merck's Rota Teq are available for around ₹2,000 per dose.

Once launched commercially, many developing countries would be able to include this affordable vaccine in their vaccination programs.

"Phase III trials of Rotavac has shown a 56 per cent decline in severe diarrhoea caused by the rotavirus during the first year of life, with protection continuing into the second year of life," former Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology MK Bhan, who isolated the rotavirus strain in 1985 while pursuing research at AIIMS, told the reporters on Tuesday.

He was speaking at the function wherein the

Department of Biotechnology and Bharat Biotech jointly announced positive results from a phase II clinical trial the

Rotavirus is most common cause of severe diarrhoea in infants and young children worldwide

◆ Globally 4,53,000 child deaths due to rotavirus infection

◆ In India, Rotavirus has been estimated to cause around 4,57,000 to 8,84,000 hospitalisations and 20 lakh OPD visits annually in children

◆ Rotavac vaccine will be sold at ₹50-55 a dose

vaccine developed and manufactured in India.

Krishna M Ella, Chairman of Bharat Biotech said, "We are planning to file a dossier with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) in July. We will come to the market after getting the requisite regulatory clearances."

Rotavac is an oral vaccine administered to infants in a three-dose course at the ages of six, 10 and 14 weeks alongside routine immunisations recommended at these ages.

The DBT has partnered with Hyderabad-based company Bharat Biotech and four US organisations for the vaccine. These are the National Institutes of Health, the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Stanford University School of Medicine, and the non-Governmental organisation PATH.

The vaccine's trial was launched in March 2011 and 6,800 infants are enrolled as part of the trial at three sites in India. These sites are the Centre for Health Research and Development in New Delhi, Shirdi Sai Baba Rural Hospital at the King Edward Memorial Hospital Research Centre in Pune, and the Christian Medical College in Vellore. Other organisations involved in the study include the Department of Biotechnology's Translational Health Science and Technology Institute.

Pioneer, May 15, 2013, P.5
(Diarrhoea)

Compromising on hygiene

Aarti Dhar

Young girls in rural Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are yet to switch over to the use of sanitary napkins during menstruation whereas in Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha, the use of sanitary napkins for better hygiene is really catching up, latest official data suggests.

The government initiated a scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene in 2011 under which highly subsidised sanitary napkins are being supplied to adolescent girls, in the age group of 10-19 years, in the rural areas. The supply is made through the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) who are incentivised for this.

The scheme took off last year in 115 districts of 17 States in the first phase and data received by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare suggests that the use of sanitary napkins was the lowest in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the first year with only 39 per cent and 43 per cent utilisation respectively while Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Punjab showed 100 per cent utilisation of the first batch of napkins which were supplied by Hindustan latex Limited—a public sector undertaking.

In Rajasthan, 97 per cent young women bought and used these low cost sanitary napkins, closely followed by Maharashtra at 96 per cent, Jharkhand at 87 per cent and Jammu and Kashmir at 85 per cent. While in Madhya Pradesh utilisation was 80 per cent, Andhra Pradesh saw only 71 per cent, Uttarakhand 68 per cent, Karnataka 62 per cent, Assam just 53 per cent, and Gujarat 52 per cent.

The government supplies

Adolescent girls in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar lag behind in the use of sanitary products thus posing a threat to their health, latest official data suggests

one pack of sanitary napkins, containing six pads, at Rs. 6 to rural women through ASHAs who gets Re. 1 for per pack she sells and one pack free every month as an incentive. Evidence suggests that lack of access to menstrual hygiene (which includes sanitary napkins, toilets in schools, availability of water, privacy and safe disposal) could contribute to local infections, including Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI).

Studies have shown that RTIs pose grave threats to women's lives, livelihood, and education. Services for the prevention and treatment of RTI/Sexually Transmitted Infections are integral part of the Reproductive Child Health II Programme (RCH II). This scheme is part of the Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health (ARSH) in the RCH II.

In India, menstruation and menstrual practices are clouded by taboos and socio-cultural restrictions for women as well as adolescent girls. Limited access to safe sanitary products and facilities is believed to be one of the reasons for constrained school attendance, high dropout rates and ill-health due to infection. Lack of awareness is a major reason for unhygienic menstrual practices in the country.

While the full utilisation data for the second batch of supplies is not available with the government with supplies sent in two bulk batches, so far 7,18,70,004 packs have been supplied by the government under the scheme while 2,30,23,711 have been consumed.

Hindu, May 21, 2013, P. 1
(Hygiene-Adolescent Girls)

सरकारी स्कूलों के 20 प्रतिशत बच्चों में खून की कमी

संजय टुटेजा/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। राजधानी के सरकारी स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले लगभग 20 प्रतिशत बच्चे खून की कमी के शिकार हैं। इनमें से 2 प्रतिशत बच्चे तो गंभीर रूप से खून की कमी के शिकार हैं, इस कारण इनका विकास बाधित हो रहा है। स्कूली बच्चों में खून की कमी से संबंधित रोग को दूर करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने 10 से 19 वर्ष की आयु के 20 लाख स्कूली बच्चों को प्रति सप्ताह आयरन व फोलिक एसिड की गोली देने की योजना बनाई है। जिन बच्चों में खून की ज्यादा कमी है, उन्हें 100



- करीब 20 लाख बच्चों को प्रति सप्ताह दी जाएगी आयरन व फोलिक एसिड की गोलियां
- 15 जुलाई से स्कूल स्तर पर सरकार चलाएगी अभियान
- खून की ज्यादा कमी वाले बच्चों को प्रतिदिन दी जाएगी गोली

चिकित्सकों के विभिन्न दल प्रत्येक स्कूल में बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य की जांच कर रहे हैं। योजना के तहत बच्चों की जांच के जो परिणाम सरकार को मिलेंगे, वह अत्यंत चिंताजनक हैं। जांच में सरकारी स्कूलों में लगभग 20 प्रतिशत बच्चे खून की कमी के शिकार पाए गए हैं। इन बच्चों में काफी संख्या ऐसे बच्चों की है, जिनमें खून की भारी कमी है। योजना के तहत स्कूल न जाने वाली लड़कियों को भी आयरन व फोलिक एसिड की गोलियां दी जाएंगी। स्कूल स्तर पर सभी बच्चों को दोपहर के भोजन के बाद यह गोली दी जाएगी, जबकि स्कूल न जाने वाली 10 से 19 आयु वर्ग की लड़कियों को आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों में यह गोली दी जाएगी। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डा.अशोक कुमार वालिया ने बताया कि यह अभियान 15 जुलाई से शुरू किया जाएगा और अगले 52 सप्ताह तक प्रत्येक बुधवार को स्कूल में दोपहर के भोजन के बाद बच्चों को यह गोलियां दी जाएंगी। उन्होंने बताया कि यदि किसी बुधवार को स्कूल का छुट्टी दिवस हो तो यह गोली बृहस्पतिवार को दी जाएगी।

साप्ताहिक स्तर पर यह गोली सभी बच्चों को दी जाएगी, लेकिन जिन बच्चों में खून की ज्यादा कमी होगी, उन्हें इस अभियान के तहत 100 दिन तक प्रतिदिन एक गोली दोपहर के भोजन के बाद दी जाएगी। इसके अलावा बच्चों को पेट के कीड़ों से मुक्त करने के लिए प्रत्येक वर्ष एक 400 एमजी की चबाने वाली गोली दी जाएगी। स्वास्थ्य विभाग की ओर से सभी तरह की गोलियां स्कूलों में उपलब्ध करा दी जाएंगी। इनका वितरण अध्यापकों द्वारा किया जाएगा। इसकी निगरानी नोडल अधिकारी करेंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि स्कूल न जाने वाली जिन लड़कियों को आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों में यह गोली दी जाएगी, उन्हें वह सप्ताह के निर्धारित दिनों आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र पर नहीं आती हैं तो दो दिन बाद आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता संबंधित लड़कों के घर पर जाकर यह गोली देने। आयरन व फोलिक एसिड की गोली पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित है तथा इस गोली का कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता।

दिन तक प्रतिदिन यह गोली दी जाएगी। इसके अलावा वर्ष में एक बार बच्चों को पेट के कीड़ों से मुक्त करने की दवा भी दी जाएगी। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डा.अशोक कुमार वालिया के अनुसार इस योजना का मकसद स्कूली बच्चों को हृष्ट-पुष्ट बनाना तथा बच्चों के मानसिक व शारीरिक विकास को गति देना है।

दिल्ली में सरकारी स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य की जांच के लिए दिल्ली सरकार ने पिछले वर्ष ही महत्वाकांक्षी 'चाचा नेहरू स्वास्थ्य योजना' की शुरुआत की थी। इस योजना के तहत

Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 10, 2013, P.1+2
(Anemia-Measures)

2.2 Mental Health/ Behavior Problems (*Autism Spectrum Disorder*)

They're special, not taboo

INHIBITIONS WON'T HELP Timely diagnosis and correct therapeutic intervention can help autistic children lead normal functional life

Number of ASD cases

2003	2013
20 lakh	1.36 crore

CARS - Childhood Autistic Rating Scale : It provides clear diagnosis of ASD

CARE FOR THEM

AT HOME: Parents should not try to hide symptoms but immediately seek expert help

AT SCHOOL: Special educators and integrated classrooms immensely help children with ASD

THERAPY: Special educators, speech therapist, occupational therapist, specialists who follow an individual education programme are vital to treatment and management of such cases

LOOK FOR THESE SYMPTOMS

- Using gestures or pointing instead of words to express
- Follow a pattern of repeating words or phrases
- Laughing/crying or distressed for no apparent reason
- Stays aloof, even with family members or throw tantrums
- Socially withdrawn or finds it difficult to interact with people
- Uncomfortable with physical contact of any kind
- Little or no eye contact even when spoken to directly
- Unresponsive to normal teaching methods
- Obsessive attachment
- Uncontrolled body/limb movements

Rhythmia Kaul
rhythmia.kaul@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: From 20 lakh cases in 2003, the number of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) cases in the country has risen to about 1.36 crore at present. Yet, ASD that refers to a wide range of developmental disorders has not entered the mainstream conversation in our society as much as it ought to.

One of the reasons being that in a majority of cases, ASDs are clubbed with mental retardation, largely due to lack of awareness, and have a certain social stigma attached to them.

"There is a clear-cut diagnosis these days available for ASDs known as CARS — childhood autistic rating scale, but what happens is people have limited exposure and lack of adequate training even among experts who have inadequate practical exposure which results in misdiagnosis," said Dr Pulkit Sharma, consultant clinical psychologist and psychoanalytical therapist, VIMHANS.

"As the child grows he or she is labeled as mentally retarded and gets secluded. The crucial time that should have been utilized to start treatment gets lost," said Dr Sharma.

In most cases, it is the inhibitions on part of the parents of the child to bring him or her out into the normal social structure that deteriorates the situation. There are cases of children having never made it out of their homes for years. Most parents are not aware that this is a condition that can dramatically improve with the right therapy and intervention and the child can lead a functional life.

In fact, most schools these days have special educators and integrated classrooms to help these children blend in. Though it is a challenging task, yet schools feel the results are phenomenal that is evident in the progressive growth and development of children with special needs.

The integrated department is a team of professionally well-trained special educators, speech therapist, occupational therapist and specialists who follow an individual education programme wherein the child is treated on case-to-case basis.

"In our school each special student has an Individual Educational Plan, which is discussed and pursued with meticulous planning and execution of assignments related to social, academic and co-curricular activities. Some students with special needs follow the regular curriculum, some modified and some functional," said Sudha Goyal, principal, Scottish High International School, Gurgaon.

"The children show enormous strength in extra-curricular activities and so these subjects are equally emphasized. Besides skill development, their strengths are tapped and enhanced to showcase their talents," added Goyal.

Therapies are vital elements for children with special needs and hence speech, occupational, sensory therapies contribute to the development of these students.

"The condition can be diagnosed as early as at age of two years and with right kind of therapies, in up to 40% of the cases there has been a near-normal recovery. Unfortunately, most kids don't get diagnosed before the age of 4.5 years," says Boston-based Vincent Strully, CEO and Founder The New England Center for Children, a leader in autism research and education.

Strully, who has 41 years of experience working with children and adults with autism and related disorders, is in the Capital to start a programme in India, in collaboration with Special Child Trust, for training teachers in the latest approaches available to mainstream children with ASDs.

"These children can learn a lot provided they are taught by well-trained people. We have a well-developed curriculum — a web-based software that can be downloaded on phones or iPads, that develops with the child. It has an archive based on latest research on the topic," said Strully.

Special Child Trust will also start an Autism Centre for Excellence to cater to the affected children from pre-school to early adulthood. "We are looking at collaborating with an Indian university for a Master's degree on the subject. Through education, research and training we can transform the lives of these children," said Sumeer Nayar, founding trustee of the trust.

Hindustan Times, May 6, 2013, P.7
(*Autism Spectrum Disorder*)

लक्षण पहचान कर जाने नहीं हो रहा बच्चे का मानसिक विकास

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

यदि समय के साथ-साथ आपके बच्चे का मानसिक विकास नहीं हो रहा है तो आपको खास ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। दिल्ली के दो अस्पतालों के डॉक्टरों समेत 16 अनुसंधानकर्ताओं की एक वैश्विक टीम ने एक आनुवंशिक दिमागी विकार पैदा करने वाले डारस नामक जीन का पता लगाया है।

इस विकार के कारण तंत्रिका तंत्र के अंगों का देर से विकास होता है, जिससे पीड़ित बच्चा किसी सहारे के बगैर बैठ या चल नहीं पाता है। शोध में सरगंगाराम अस्पताल के जेनेटिक विभाग के डॉ. आईसी चर्मा और मौलाना आजाद मेडिकल कॉलेज के पेडियाट्रिक्स विभाग की डॉ. मोनिका जुनेजा शामिल हैं। डॉ. आईसी चर्मा ने बताया बच्चों के सामान्य मानसिक विकास के लिए मस्तिष्क में बनने वाले व्हाइट मैटल डिफेक्ट को जरूरी माना जाता है। अध्ययन में शामिल किए गए बच्चों के जीनोम सिक्वेंस जांच से पता चला कि सभी बच्चों में इस द्रव्य की कमी का कारण एक ही जीन था।

देश में हुए शोध को नीडरलैंड भेजा गया। अमेरिकन आनुवंशिक संगठन के 12 अन्य शोधकर्ताओं के साथ मिलकर अन्य बच्चों पर भी अध्ययन किया गया। शोध के सरगंगाराम अस्पताल में इलाज कराने वाली छह साल की बच्ची की केस स्टडी नीडरलैंड भेजी गई, जिसमें डारस जीन को मानसिक विकास में रुकावट के लिए जिम्मेदार पाया गया।

इस जीन की वजह से मानसिक विकास प्रभावित होता है, जिसका असर दो से तीन साल बाद दिखाई पड़ता है। इसके साथ ही शारीरिक विकास पर भी इसका प्रभाव देखने को मिलता है।

डॉ. रतनापुरी, सरगंगाराम अस्पताल

पहचान ही नहीं जांच भी संभव

मस्तिष्क के सामान्य विकास को बाधित करने वाले जीन का पता लगने के साथ ही इसकी पहचान करने वाली दो आधुनिक तकनीक पर भी सफलता हासिल हुई है। इसमें डीएनए के संपूर्ण जीनोम सिक्वेंस की जांच कर जीन को पहचान कर दंपति की काउंसलिंग की जा सकती है, जिससे अगले बच्चे में बीमारी का असर न दिखे। हालांकि बीमारी के इलाज के कुछ प्रोटॉन पर भी शोध किया जा रहा है।

हर साल 21 हजार बच्चे होते हैं शिकार

देश में हर साल पैदा होने वाले बच्चों में से करीब 21 हजार बच्चे मस्तिष्क के डाउन सिंड्रोम के शिकार होते हैं। इसमें अकेले 5200 बच्चे थैलसीमिया के शिकार होते हैं। आनुवंशिक बीमारियों के बढ़ते बोझ के कारण ही अब जन्म से पहले दंपतियों की आनुवंशिक सलाह को जरूरी बताया गया है।

क्या होते हैं लक्षण

- जन्म के 20 महीने बाद भी कुछ प्रतिक्रिया न करना
- एक ही वस्तु को देखते रहने या फिर आवाज देने पर भी न सुनना
- खिलौनों की जगह अन्य चीजों से खेलना, जैसे बर्तन या फिर स्विच बॉर्ड
- मुंह से पानी निकलना या फिर तेज सांसे लेना, जीभ मोटी होना
- दो से तीन साल की उम्र के बाद भी चलने में असम या फिर बैठने के देरी
- पीड़ित बच्चा किसी सहारे के बगैर बैठ या चल नहीं पाता है

Hindustan (H), May 6, 2013, P.3

2.3 Nutrition/Malnutrition/Dietary Patterns (Right To Food Campaign/ Mother's Milk Bank)

कुपोषण मिटाने की तैयारी

■ न्यूट्रीफॉर्म्स पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू

■ देश के नौ राज्यों में शुरुआत

दिनेशचंद्र शर्मा @ कसौली
jaipur@patrika.com

महिला व बच्चों में बढ़ती कुपोषण की समस्या को दूर करने के लिए उन्हें पोषकता बढ़ाने वाला अनाज दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार इस वर्ष से राजस्थान सहित नौ राज्यों के 100 जिलों में न्यूट्रीफॉर्म्स पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू करने की तैयारी कर रही है। प्रोजेक्ट के तहत स्वयं सहायता समूह तैयार कर उन्हें पोषकता बढ़ाने वाले अनाज पैदा करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाएगा।

केन्द्र सरकार के कृषि व सहकारिता विभाग की ओर से देश में कुपोषण वाले राज्यों में प्रोजेक्ट लागू किया गया है। इसके तहत कृषि विभाग की ओर से स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाए जाएंगे। इन समूहों को सम्बंधित क्षेत्र में कमी वाले पोषक तत्व की पूर्ति करने वाले अनाज की किस्म का उत्पादन करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाएगा। योजना के तहत उन्हें विभाग की ओर से दिए जाने वाले बीज का उत्पादन करने पर अनुदान भी दिया जाएगा।

समूह बनाए जा रहे हैं

कृषि उपनिदेशक टी. के. जोशी ने बताया कि प्रोजेक्ट के सम्बंध में दिशा-निर्देश मिले हैं। इसके लिए स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाए जा रहे हैं।

इसलिए पड़ी जरूरत

जुलाई 2012 में हुए ग्लोबल सर्वे में कुपोषण के मामले में भारत की स्थिति काफी चिंताजनक रही है। कुपोषण को लेकर विश्व में भारत का 112वां स्थान है। सर्वे में सामने आया कि 42 फीसदी बच्चों का वजन औसत से कम है, जबकि 58 फीसदी बच्चों में 2 साल की उम्र में वृद्धि कम देखी गई है। 70 फीसदी महिला व बच्चों में पोषक तत्वों की कमी पाई गई। इनमें आयरन, जिंक, कैल्शियम, आयोडीन, मैग्नीशियम, सैलिनियम व विटामिन 'ए' की कमी देखी गई। इन पोषक तत्वों की पूर्ति के लिए वहां सबसे ज्यादा खाए जाने वाले अनाजों की ऐसी किस्में तैयार की जाएंगी, जो उन पोषक तत्वों की पूर्ति कर सकें। इसी के तहत न्यूट्रीफॉर्म्स पायलट प्रोजेक्ट तैयार किया गया है।

प्रदेश के 16 जिले शामिल

प्रोजेक्ट में बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड, मध्यप्रदेश, उत्तरप्रदेश, उड़ीसा, असम, राजस्थान व उत्तराखण्ड को शामिल किया गया है। इनमें 140 करोड़ रुपए खर्च किए जाएंगे। इसमें प्रदेश के करौली सहित अजमेर, अलवर, बारो, बाड़मेर, बीकानेर, दीसा, धौलपुर, डूंगरपुर, जयपुर, झुंझुनू, राजसमन्द, सवाईमाधोपुर, सिरौही, टोंक व उदयपुर जिले शामिल हैं। प्रोजेक्ट में बारो, अजमेर, राजसमन्द, सिरौही व उदयपुर जिले में मक्का व अन्य जिलों में बाजरे की फसल को शामिल किया गया है। प्रदेश में मक्का के 1600 तथा बाजरे के 2880 स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाए जाएंगे। इन पर 22.40 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होंगे।

ऐसे होगा पोषक अनाज तैयार

प्रोजेक्ट के तहत 20-30 लोगों के स्वयं सहायता समूह तैयार किए जाएंगे। देश में करीब 28 हजार तथा जिले में 280 स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाए जाएंगे। इन समूहों को कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों के माध्यम से प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। विभाग की ओर से क्षेत्र के लिए आवश्यक कमी वाले पोषक तत्व का बीज स्वयं सहायता समूह को दिया जाएगा। जिले में आयरन की कमी को देखते हुए बाजरे की आईसीटीपी-8203 किस्म की आपूर्ति की जाएगी। एक हेक्टेयर पर किसानों को पांच हजार रुपए का अनुदान देय होगा।

Rajasthan Patrika, May 31, 2013, P.3
(Malnutrition/ Nutrifoms Pilot Project)

Malnutrition to cost India up to \$46 billion?

SARJU KAUL
LONDON, MAY 28

Malnutrition in children at the start of life severely impairs their learning ability affecting their literacy and then affects their earning ability later in life, according to a study commissioned by a British charity.

The report has for the first time highlighted the extent to which a child's brain can be permanently damaged if they do not receive the right nutrition in the first 1,000 days of their life.

Chronically malnourished children are 20 per cent less literate than those with a healthier diet, and less able to read or write a simple sentence, and score lower on maths tests, according to research presented in Save the Children's latest report Food for Thought.

The report also calculated that children who are malnourished go on to earn 20 per cent less as adults than the children who are well nourished. However, it also quotes

In 2012, UN figures suggested that 47 per cent children under five in southern Asia were stunted, that is they were too short for their age due to poor nutrition

another study that estimates this earning deficit for malnourished children at 66 per cent.

By extrapolating a 20 per cent reduction in earnings to a global level, the report, which studied childhood poverty India, Ethiopia, Peru and Vietnam, shows that today's malnutrition could cost the global economy as much as \$125 billion when today's children reach working age in 2030.

In India, it has been estimated that the economic cost of micronutrient malnutrition amounts to between 0.8 per cent and 2.5 per cent of GDP, equivalent to \$15-46 billion. In 2012, the UN figures suggested that 47 per cent children under five in southern Asia stunted, that is they were too short for their age due to poor nutrition. In India, 61.4 million children under five are stunted. To highlight the crisis, over 25 of world's best-loved children's authors and illustrators on Tuesday called on G8 leaders to step up their efforts to tackle hunger around the world.

Asian Age, May 29, 2013, P.10
(Malnutrition)

In Attappady, a welfare society in distress

After the malnutrition deaths in the area, a half-baked attempt has been made to revive it

Krishnadas Rajagopal

ATTAPPADY: Since December 1 last year, 18 infants have died in Attappady — most of them less than two-and-a-half months old. Records with the Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) office show the babies "did not have the ability to imbibe nutrition."

Findings of a "mega" medical camp conducted by the Health Department at the Tribal Specialty Hospital at Kottathara on April 20 were startling: 536 of the 836 people from the Scheduled Tribes who participated suffered from malnutrition and anaemia. And 125 of them were children below five years.

The reason for the dismaying statistics can be found in the debris of welfare projects across Attappady over the years. One of them is the Attappady Hills Area Development Society (AHADS). Set up with a financial aid of Rs. 219 crore from the Japan International Cooperation Agency in 1994 under the Rural Development Ministry, AHADS began work two years later with the sole objective of introducing "ecological stability and social engineering through tribal people's participation."

By 2005, the society had reclaimed 1,000 hectares of green cover. It created 190 micro-watersheds and four macro-watersheds on tribal lands.

But AHADS came to a standstill in 2010-2011. "We just stopped getting projects," says N.C. Induchoodan, its Director. About 80 Adivasi staffers, who lost their jobs after AHADS became defunct, are fighting the government for work.

A Rs 195-crore agricultural package announced in 2010

by the State government was diverted to the Agriculture Department. A Rs. 15-crore scheme to "uplift" the primitive Kurumba tribe went to the Tribal Department. Both schemes have not reached the tribal people yet.

Dr. Induchoodan says an AHADS mobile health unit used to visit all 183 tribal hamlets once in three months. Today, post the malnutrition deaths, a half-baked attempt has been made to revive the society. "We have been given a new name — Centre for Comprehensive and Participatory Resource Management (CCPRM). We will take the Attappady model of participatory watershed development to other panchayats," he says.

But, except for the new name, the AHADS-CCPRM (as it is now called) has not so far been allotted any funds.

Health officials are mostly in a state of denial about the infant deaths. The doctors at the 40-bed Kottathara hospi-

tal blame it on the tribal people's lifestyle.

"At the mega camp, Adivasis suffering from anaemia or malnutrition were given a bottle of medicine and a packet of food that day. Many left after they were told that there was a snag in the weighing machine," K.A. Ramu, a tribal youth, recounts.

"There are 85 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) here. They go door to door supplying medicines, including iron and folic acid supplements for pregnant tribal women. For two years, ASHA workers were not given their medical kits by the government," P.V. Radhakrishnan, Project Officer, ITDP, says.

Work has been scarce for the past two months. Rajendra Prasad, president of Thampu, a tribal activist and research group based in Attappady, says this is because the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) works have come to a stop.

Mr. Radhakrishnan however claims MGNREGS was a "great success" last year. Records show Rs. 9.75 crore was spent in 2012. Of the 8,868 families enrolled last year, 4,532 were from the Scheduled Tribes. Fifty per cent of the workdays in 2012 were used by tribal people.

Dr. Induchoodan has a new formula for ensuring AHADS's survival.

"Local politicians were left out of the earlier Rs. 219-crore project. I believe, if we involve them this time, they will show more interest."

Hindustan Times, May 7, 2013, P.15

Move for nutritional growth among poor

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 20 — Guwahati Urban Area Development Programme, World Vision India has launched UMANG (Urgent Management and Action for Nutritional Growth) in the poverty pockets along the National Highway 37.

This is an initiative from the Guwahati Urban Area Development Programme (GUADP) to address malnutrition among children below 5 years along the national highway from Basistha to Jalukbari.

Gamliel Sherio of GUADP informed that the intervention to address child related issues has been made through Com-

munity Based Organizations (CBOs).

"India is one of the countries in the world with highest malnutrition in children below five years and Assam is one of the states in India which is not free from malnutrition," said Sherio.

As per a survey done by the GUADP in 14 target areas in Basistha, Lokhra and Gorchuk, 117 children below 5 years old were found to be malnourished in the categories of moderate and severe.

"To improve the health status of these malnourished children we, along with the participation of the communities started an emergency nutrition programme called UMANG.

Under this programme, the malnourished children have been able to eat nutritious snacks and food cooked in hygienic condition," said Sherio.

It needs to be mentioned here that with the support of NRHM and Health department and the local PHCs, the malnourished children were administered anti-worm medicines before being covered by the UMANG programme. This programme would contin-

ue for three months so that the children reach the normal weight as per their age.

Personal hygiene is also part of the programme and the mothers of the children were imparted classes on hygiene and cleanliness so that the children imbibe habits like hand washing, cutting long nails and practice eating food with clean hands which can help them stay away from various health problems.

Assam Tribune, May 21, 2013, P.5

(Malnutrition)

Between mass hunger and bursting granaries

A concern about the Food Security Bill is that legal entitlement has been weakened to mean a passive right to receive whatever the state gives

Agrima Bhasin

The hallmark of the National Food Security Bill 2011 is that if implemented, it will translate into India's first ever right to food legislation, guaranteeing food as a justiciable, legal entitlement to its people. However, in its current form, the Bill fails to evolve a robust understanding of food security — one in which "food" is valued as a basic fact of life, and "security" translates into a life lived with dignity, with individuals as active seekers of their entitlements.

The repeated use of the word "entitlement" in the Bill makes it possible to conceptualise food security as a right. It allows the Government to speak convincingly of an ostensible shift from a welfare-based to a rights-based approach. The Bill, however, defines food security as *the supply of entitled food-grains and meal*. Such a narrow definition assumes the individual to be a passive recipient of a dole and not a proactive claimant of entitlements. Moreover, it sharply contrasts with the understanding of "entitlements" advanced by the Right to Food Campaign (RTFC) — a movement that sculpted the passage for the birth of the Food Bill.

The RTFC emerged in 2001 as an outgrowth of the civil writ petition filed in the Supreme Court by the People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCI), Rajasthan, demanding that the country's rotting foodgrain stocks be used to prevent mass hunger and acute starvation. The petition emphasised the constitutional basis of the "right to food" flowing from Article 21 that guarantees the fundamental right to life. This petition, also known as the landmark *PUCI vs. Union of India* or the "right to food" case, is ongoing as a public interest litigation.

More inclusive

The RTFC places the "right to food" in a wider, more inclusive bed of "entitlements." Its shared premise is that to address the structural roots of hunger, the "right to food" should be read together with "entitlements" concerning livelihood security, equitable rights over resources such as land, water and forests, sustainable food systems, right to infor-

mation, education and health care, social inclusion and non-discrimination. Over the years, it has publicly shared and structured this premise through legal and street advocacy, grassroots engagement and policy advocacy.

In fact, the universalisation of cooked midday meals in schools across India was a direct result of the interim order under the "right to food" case and campaigns around the judgment, steered by the RTFC.

It is against this background of steady advocacy that the Congress, after its re-election in 2009, acted on its electoral promise to legislate the right to food. The United Progressive Alliance-II tasked the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), headed by then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to draft the National Food Security Act.

The Bill tabled in Parliament in 2011 was a whittled down version of a visionary draft prepared by the National Advisory Council. It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. After a State Food Minister's meeting to deliberate the committee's recommendations in February this year, a revised version of the Bill was cleared by the Cabinet the following month.

Amendments to the Bill were introduced in the Lok Sabha on May 2, which now urgently await discussion and passage.

Columnists in economic and business dailies have been quick to dismiss the Bill as a "fiscal nightmare." The Food Minister, who argues that India can no longer afford to forgo the historic opportunity of enacting a National Food Security Act, justly rubbishes this discourse.

For and against

Briefly, the Bill may be lauded for stipulating formidable reforms to the PDS, maternity entitlements for lactating and pregnant mothers and expanding coverage, respectively, to 75 and 50 per cent of the population in rural and urban areas.

Supporters of the Bill, however, are unhappy about the continuation of targeting in PDS, reduction in monthly per capita PDS grain entitlement from 7 kg to 5 kg, omission of the health and pre-school education components of ICDS, absence of special entitlements for the

most vulnerable sections of the population (persons in destitution or starvation, the elderly, persons with disabilities and single women), proposed introduction of cash transfers and unsatisfactory grievance redress mechanisms,

among others. But the bigger concern is that a robust understanding of the "right to food," premised on hunger has been weakened to mean a passive "right to receive" whatever the state wants to give in the name of food security.

Reframing food security

The successive erosion of the essence of the "right to food" through multiple drafts has divorced it from the context of a silent emergency of malnutrition and hunger in which the RTFC first rooted it. This is evident in the absence of the phrase "right to food" from the text of the Bill.

While noteworthy reforms to the PDS have been duly centre staged, the references to improvements in agriculture, water and sanitation, health care and decentralised procurement and storage, are only tangential (buried in the last schedule of the Bill). Any framing of food security cannot ignore the moral implications of hunger and must argue for a better understanding of the social, beyond the legal and economic, to arrive at a society unconditioned by the fear of powerlessness that hunger can impose.

(Agrima Bhasin is at the Centre for Equity Studies, a New Delhi-based think-tank.)

Hindu, May 8, 2013, P. 11
(Right To Food Campaign)

Child Malnutrition In India

The problem is likely to be less severe than UN statistics

Arvind Panagariya

indicate, given faulty yardsticks

If asked to name the state with the lowest incidence of child malnutrition in India, readers will overwhelmingly pick one of Kerala, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Punjab or West Bengal. But they will all be wrong by a wide margin: none of these states appears among even the top five performers.

According to the recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Arunachal Pradesh walks away with the top prize. Based on 2010-11 data, Nagaland, Sikkim, Manipur and Mizoram, in that order, follow on the top five list. Maharashtra ranks a close sixth but the next four slots again go to northern and northeastern states — Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Jammu & Kashmir and Assam. Only then do Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab find a place on the list (caveat: I exclude Madhya Pradesh due to possible data inconsistencies).

Nine out of the top ten states are from the northeast or north. Even Tripura, the only remaining northeastern state, scores a tie with Kerala. The rankings are also wildly out of line with the only other vital health statistic for children that I am able to access for all Indian states: infant mortality rates (IMR) per thousand live births.

Arunachal Pradesh, the star performer in child nutrition, had IMR of 32 in 2011 compared with 11 in Goa and 12 in Kerala. But the CAG report places 34%

children in Goa, 37% in Kerala and just two percent in Arunachal Pradesh in the underweight category. Assam does worse than even the Indian average in life expectancy and IMR but beats Goa and Kerala in child nutrition.

These puzzling inter-state rankings mirror some international rankings. In 2009, 33 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) had lower per-capita incomes than India. The same year, India ranked ahead of the vast majority of these countries in life expectancy, IMR, child mortality and maternal mortality. Yet, India had proportionately more underweight children than every one of these 33 countries.

Using a single weight norm to determine malnutrition when populations of different races and ethnicities differ in this is bound to result in outcomes that defy commonsense

These paradoxical inter-state and India-SSA comparisons are rooted in the flawed measurement methodology that the World Health Organization (WHO) has aggressively pushed to give substance to one of the key United Nations Millennium Development Goals. This methodology prescribes a single worldwide weight norm for children of a given age and gender to determine whether they are underweight. The underlying assumption is

that regardless of race, ethnicity, culture and geography, different populations produce identical weight and height outcomes if provided identical diets. By implication, a larger proportion of children deviating from the prescribed norm in a population represents greater incidence of malnutrition in that population.

But populations greatly differ in height and weight even absent nutritional differences. Japanese adults remain 12 to 13 centimeters shorter than their Dutch counterparts after many generations of healthy diet. American adults have been having as good a diet as the Dutch for decades but they began falling behind the latter in height during the 1950s and have shown no tendency to catch up. African adults are much taller than their South Asian counterparts despite poorer diets for decades.

In a 2008 study, Martin Nube compares South Asian adults living in Fiji, South Africa and the United States with their respective native counterparts. He finds "an ethnically determined predisposition for low adult BMI [Bio Mass Index]" in them. He concludes that this predisposition "cannot be explained on the basis of indicators which relate to access to food, social status of women or overall standard of living."

Careful studies using extensive data find similar differences between infants born in the United States to Indian and Japanese mothers on the one hand and American mothers on the other. After controlling for maternal socio-demographic and prenatal care factors, newborns of the former groups show much greater incidence of low birth weight and low height for gestation than the latter. Nonetheless, newborns of the three groups exhibit very similar IMRs.

Using a single weight (or height) norm to determine malnutrition when populations of different races and ethnicities differ in these attributes is bound to result in measured outcomes that defy commonsense. No wonder prescribed nutrition measures show children from Chad and Central African Republic as better nourished than their Indian counterparts and those from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Assam better fed than children from Goa and Kerala.

The government of India needs to carefully review whether the WHO approach to measuring underweight children, adopted uncritically, rests on a sound methodology. If not, it should work with its best pediatricians and nutritionists toward devising a better methodology. Until then, there are good reasons to be skeptical of claims that India suffers from worse malnutrition than SSA or that Goa and Kerala lag behind Assam in combating child malnutrition.

To end on a positive note, however, even the flawed methodology allows us to reasonably track progress over time within the same population. So have the reforms and growth in India indeed failed to improve child nutrition as widely alleged by the reform critics and growth bashers? Not by a long shot. According to the CAG report, in just four years, the proportion of underweight children in India has declined from 50% in 2006-07 to 41%. This matches India's achievements in life expectancy and IMR.

The writer is professor of Indian political economy at Columbia University.

Times of India, May 2, 2013, P.18

(Malnutrition)

Change in lifestyle leading to more malnutrition in India

By Bharat Dogra

India faces a peculiar situation of some of the world's biggest nutrition programmes co-existing with some of the worst statistics of malnutrition in the world. This is due to the poor implementation of ICDS and mid-day meal programme in a large part of the country. This, however is at best only a very partial explanation of the large-scale persistence of malnutrition. A much more important factor relates to important changes taking place in food production and processing patterns which are harmful for nutrition. The poorly implemented nutrition programme cannot make up for this loss of nutrition suffered due to various changes in food production and processing patterns.

In many places, small farmers are being displaced by economic pressures, extreme weather conditions and infrastructure projects. As they no longer have access to diverse food grown on their land, they suffer a quantitative as well as qualitative nutrition loss.

The poor, landless rural households now have lesser access to those kinds of farm work which brought food security. Harvesting work was generally the time when they were paid in the form of a part of the staple food crops harvested by them. In many parts of the country, the employment in crop harvesting has suffered the most due to the advent of combine harvesters.

In cropping patterns, there is a strong drift towards monocultures while mixed cropping has been reduced. The mixed farming systems, which provided a diversity of foods for a balanced diet no longer exist in many villages. In the process, the cultivation of pulses has gone down heavily, particularly in leading 'green revolution' areas. Similarly, the production of highly nutritious millets has declined rapidly in large parts of the country. The overall decline in greenery and tree cover has denied fruits and other nutritious edibles to poorer sections who earlier often had free access to this source of nutrition.

Similarly, as most of the milk produced in villages is now sold directly (and not processed to make ghee) the free availability of buttermilk as a source of proteins has declined greatly. This source of protein was earlier accessible to the poor.

It is well-known that excessive use of chemical fertilisers causes a loss of flavour of food; what is less known is that it can also cause a loss of nutritive value and even create some serious health problems. According to prominent nutrition expert C. Gopalan, "the use of high analysis chemical fertilisers, which is a part of the modern intensive agricultural technology, had not always gone hand-in-hand with appropriate measures for soil testing and soil replenishment, with the result that, as shown by the studies of FAO, there are disturbing evidences of micronutrient depletion of soils in some areas; these are likely to be eventually reflected in impaired nutritive

value of food-grains grown in such soils." Richard Douthwaite has written in his book *The Growth Illusion*, "Nitrogenous fertilisers can raise the amount of nitrate in the final crop to four or five times the level found in the compost-growing equivalent, while at the same time cutting vitamin C and dry matter levels. This change is potentially serious, since nitrates can be turned into powerful carcinogenic nitrosamines by bacteria found in the mouth, while vitamin C has been shown to protect against cancers."

Important changes

In recent decades, important changes have taken place in methods of food processing which have damaged the nutrition of staple foods. Rice is without doubt the most important food in our country and unfortunately it is in the processing of rice that the maximum loss occurs due to polishing of the grain. According to an expert L. Ramchandaran, writing in his book *Food Planning - Some Vital Aspects* even in sheer quantitative terms the loss is very significant - in ordinary milling and polishing the quantitative loss ranges from 8 per cent to 16 per cent and in excessive polishing it may go up to 27 per cent. Similarly, there is a big loss of grain and nutrients in the milling of wheat in modern roller mills, which through a complicated process of breaking the grain by stages, peel off the outer layers.

In the present day processing in rice mills as well as flour mills the most nutrient-rich parts of grain are discarded-sent to cattle feed and poultry feed plants. According to Ramchandaran, the quantitative loss in the case of cereals by such wasteful refining may amount to not less than eight million tonnes in a year. However, the qualitative loss is even more staggering because the portions of the grain which are removed are rich in precisely those nutrients in which the average Indian diet is deficient.

Another massive source of loss of nutrients is the hydrogenation of oils or the manufacture of the so-called vanaspati ghee. In recent decades, vanaspati ghee has become a widely used cooking medium in India. The natural oil is deodorised and secoloured by chemical processing. It is then hydrogenated in a process using nickel catalyst. The hydrogenation changes most of the unsaturated and polyunsaturated fats into saturated fats. Saturated fats consumed in excess can be very harmful. Unsaturated fats, especially some of the polyunsaturated fats, are important in nutrition and play a protective role against the risk of cardiovascular disease and other ailments.

These are examples of harmful processing of staple foods, but in addition to this a whole range of new processed foods have also become a regular part of Indian diet, first in relatively well-to-do houses, and then, as these are considered signs of good living, also among the poorer families trying to imitate them. Many of these foods give low nutrition at a high price, some-

thing the poorer families can least afford, and also harm the health of those consuming them regularly, specially children in several ways. These food products include various confectionery items, canned products, snacks, soft drinks, pretentious 'energy' foods and drinks, various baby foods and infant milk formulas. Children are the worst hit by this drastic change in diet from natural foods to highly refined, attractive, coloured and flavoured foods.

These diverse cause of malnutrition need to be properly understood and documented, as reliable measures to check malnutrition can only be based on such an understanding.

Deccan Herald, May 30, 2013, P.11
(Malnutrition)

Abha Sharma

A mother is very special to a child and so is mother's milk that is essential to give vital sustenance to the offspring. But not all children, however, are fortunate enough to get mother's milk. Either due to maternal mortality or due to medical reasons, every second child is malnourished in India.

The infant mortality rate of India is 46 per thousand. This figure can be reduced by 22 per cent if there is donated mother's milk available. This thought has been the main inspiration behind setting up of a Mother's Milk Bank in Udaipur.

An initiative of Maa Bhagwati Vikas Sansthan, an organisation based in Udaipur, the Divya Mother's Milk Bank has been opened at the RNT Medical College and government hospital. The first bank of its kind in north India, the bank is now functional and open to the public.

Called Divya Mother's Milk Bank, it aims to provide screened, processed and pasteurised mother's milk to protect, promote and support the infants and babies in need, says its founder Devendra Agrawal. "If mother's milk is not available, then the next best option for a child is donated mother's milk as it will increase the survival chances of the infants by six times."

Like blood banks, mother's milk bank will depend on donors (mothers). "We have got a very positive response from women belonging to all strata of society. It is a very sensitive issue and mothers know what miraculous properties this milk has," says Archana Shaktawat, the coordinator of the project.

Milk bank donors can be willing lactating mothers who are nursing their own babies and have surplus milk or

Elixir of life

A mother's milk bank just opened in Udaipur is expected to provide succour to babies who cannot be breastfed for medical reasons



MOTHER'S MILK: Makes for healthier children.
PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

mothers of premature infants or mothers who are advised not to breastfeed their own child for medical reasons. Women who donate their milk are, however, not financially compensated — they donate because they know their milk can save the lives of premature and ill babies.

Donated milk is made available to children in NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) and PICU (pediatric intensive care unit) and also to those infants who have been prescribed so by the doctors, according to Dr. R.K. Agarwal, chief operating officer of Milk Bank, says.

"One in eight babies is

born preterm. Fewer than half of the mothers who deliver a baby prematurely are able to breastfeed their babies. Through Mother's Milk Bank, we can save 16 out of 100 premature infants. Optimal breastfeeding or giving infants mother's milk under two years of age has the greatest potential impact on child survival of all preventive interventions, with the potential to prevent 1.4 million deaths in children under the age of five," Dr. Agarwal adds.

The donated milk will also be provided to infants with life-threatening diseases or conditions. Or infants whose mothers are HIV+ and thus can't breastfeed their children or multiple birth babies whose mothers can't keep up with the milk required to nourish their infants.

Four other milk banks are operational in Mumbai, Pune, Surat and Kolkata.

The donated mothers' milk is processed and pasteurised using the Holder Method of pasteurization to eliminate bacteria while retaining the majority of the milk beneficial components. Milk is frozen at (-)20°C and given in frozen state or thawed to hospitals and individual recipients.

At a time, when efforts are being made to create awareness about mother's first milk or the colostrum as the infant's first vaccine, the mother's milk bank could play a vital role.

Hindu, May 14, 2013, P. 6

(Mother's Milk Bank)

2.4 Women Health/Reproductive Health (*Cervical Cancer/Abortion Pills/Oral Contraceptive Pill/Healthcare*)

'India tops in cervical cancer deaths'

NEW DELHI, PTI: With nearly 73,000 women dying every year, India now tops the world in cervical cancer deaths according to a report released on Friday by a US-based research and advocacy group. India represents 26.4 per cent of all women dying of cervical cancer globally, with China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand also showing high death incidence, says the "Cervical Cancer Global Crisis Card" released by the Cervical Cancer-Free Coalition.

According to the report card, cervical cancer kills an estimated 275,000 women every year and 500,000 new cases reported worldwide. This entirely preventable disease is the second largest cancer killer of women in low and middle-income countries,

Fact file

- Cervical cancer kills an estimated 275,000 women every year
- In India nearly 73,000 die every year
- 500,000 new cases reported worldwide
- It is the second largest cancer killer of women in low and middle-income countries

with most women dying in the prime of life, it said.

Using data from the WHO, United Nations, the World Bank and IARC Globocan, the Crisis Card has ranked 50 countries in the descending order of cancer mortality rates. India, China, Brazil, Bangladesh and Nigeria represent more than half of the "global burden of cervical cancer deaths," says the US based body basing its study on global rankings. Recent data released by India's Health Ministry based on the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) report in 2009 the number of cervical cancer cases were 101,938 which has increased to 107,690 in 2012. In Uttar Pradesh a total of 17,367 cases were reported in 2009 and it increased to 18,692 in 2012. After Uttar Pradesh the number of cases of cervical cancer in 2012 which has shown an increasing trend are Maharashtra (9892), Bihar (9824), West Bengal (8396), Andhra Pradesh (7907), Tamil Nadu (7077) and others. "Cervical cancer can happen to anyone. Certain women are at greater risk. These include women who started sexual activity at an early age, had multiple partners themselves, or their partners have multiple partners," said Dr Neerja Bhatia, Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). It is being estimated that the number of cervical cancer cases and deaths are estimated to increase by 2025 to 203,757 and 115,171, respectively. Strengthening of government medical college and erstwhile regional Cancer Centres (RCC) across the country as Tertiary Cancer Centre (TCC) for providing comprehensive Cancer care was also undertaken as well as campaigns are carried out through print and electronic media, he said.

Deccan Herald, May 11, 2013, P.12
(*Cervical Cancer*)

WCD wants curbs on abortion pills

TEENA THACKER
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

The easy availability of abortion pills has had the minister of women and child development (WCD) concerned. Having received complaints that abuse of these pills on the rise easy accessibility of these pills is making sex selective abortions easier, the WCD minister Krishna Tirath has taken up the matter with the Union health ministry.

Even as the abortion pills belong to Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules that makes it mandatory for the chemists to dispense the abortion pills only against registered prescription, the abuse of the pills is on the rise.

Demanding that the pills should be made available only against prescription, the WCD minister Krishna Tirath has written to the Union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad to crack a whip. "Widespread misuse of abortion pills have come to light. It has been decided to take the help of health ministry so that the pills can be made available only against prescription and not over-the-counter. These pills are even helping some women in sex selective abortions as they can be popped up in secrecy," said a senior official in the ministry.

A recent study also showed sale of abortion pills shooting up significantly in recent years, with both — single and married women taking help of these pills to get rid of an unwanted pregnancy. Also, the easy accessibility of these pills have resulted in the significant increase in its sales. "There is a need to put a mechanism in place to make sure that they are judiciously used," added the official.

The easy availability and unjudicious use by women, gynaecologists say, is however resulting into life threatening complications for women.

"A lot of women who have resorted to information based on web and taken the pills without any guidance have been seen to land up in trouble. It is important to take these pills under expert guidance."

Asian Age, May 31, 2013, P.3
(*Abortion Pills*)

In control of their lives

An attempt to reposition family planning within the framework of maternal and child health and women's rights, instead of as tool for population control

Aditi Bishnoi

Poonam of Nangal Salagri village in Himachal Pradesh's Una district was barely 18 when she got married. With no idea of how to prevent pregnancy, she gave birth to a baby daughter at 19. A second daughter followed soon. With two children and an entire household to look after by the time she turned 20, Poonam found herself struggling to fulfil her responsibilities.

When the local anganwadi bahenji spoke to her about using contraception — condom or oral contraceptive pill (OCP) — to control her family size, she

control over their lives. In a bid to make a difference to women like her, the government has been working towards nationally repositioning family planning within the framework of maternal and child health and women's rights, instead of seeing it as tool for population control.

It started with the National Population Policy (NPP) of 2000 — a document that moved the country away from a target-oriented approach hinged on sterilisation to the affirmation of people's voluntary and informed choices in reproductive health. In fact, a major objective enumerated in the NPP is the focus on delaying age at marriage to 18

mustered the courage to speak to her alcoholic husband about it. He paid no heed and thrashed her instead. Two traumatic miscarriages later, Poonam was once again pregnant and gave birth to her third daughter. Physically and emotionally exhausted, this 24-year-old is dreading the day she finds herself in the family way yet again. Poonam now gets OCPs from the anganwadi worker and takes them on the sly. If caught, she is sure to be beaten by her in-laws, who are desperate for a grandson.

Every Indian State has its share of Poonams, who, in the absence of relevant knowledge and access to family planning services, have no

years and addressing the vast unmet need for spacing and limiting births.

The reality is that even though India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined to 2.5 and many States have achieved replacement level fertility, it has not meant a significant decline in maternal and infant mortality levels. Among the reasons for this is the large unmet need for family planning, which stands at an estimated 32 million.

One in six women begins childbearing between 15 and 19 years. So preventing early marriage, then, constitutes the first step. But this, according to the Population Foundation of India (PFI)-initiated

systematic review of effective interventions to reposition family planning implemented

in various developing countries, is an especially challenging goal, owing to age-old community norms. Through systematic research of literature and intervention studies, this review has identified strategies that have been effective in delaying age at marriage and at first birth, increasing birth spacing and improving quality of family planning services.

According to Dr. Shanta Sinha, Chairperson, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), "There can be no greater violation of a girl's human rights than forcing her into a physical relation by way of marriage. A few years ago, the NCPCR did a survey to find out what happens to child brides one year after marriage. We collected stories of 70 youngsters in the 12-14 year age group in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh. The results were horrific. Some had gone into depression; many had come back to parental homes unable to cope."

To delay marriage, while the PFI review recommends keeping girls in school, intensive community mobilisation and providing life skills education to young women and men, in Dr. Sinha's experi-

ence, too, "talking education with the family along with the possibility of a job is the most powerful weapon against early marriage".

In Bihar, Sanjay Kumar, executive director, State Health Society, feels this can be a credible solution. In Bihar, the TFR is a high 3.7, 46 per cent of the girls get married at the age of 16 and 60 per cent of them are mothers before they reach 19. Says Mr. Kumar, "As of now about half of the 8,000 panchayats in the State have a high school. We are advocating the opening of a high school in every panchayat. Moreover, the State government has been distributing cycles to girls in Class IX and X so that they can travel independently to the nearest high school."

Besides averting early marriages, engaging young couples on contraception use to delay the first pregnancy and ensure adequate birth spacing is another priority area. Anuradha Gupta, mission director, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), puts it this way, "The only message we have given out these past two years is that family planning is all about families making their own choices. We do tell couples about the importance of having smaller families for the sake of their own health and better quality of life."

When it comes to delaying first pregnancy, Dr. T.K. Sundari Ravindran of the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies stresses on the need to provide women with an enabling environment, "One-to-one community counselling for couples as well as other gatekeepers like mothers-in-law, local panchayat leaders and even religious leaders are known to remove barriers."

(Women's Feature Service)

Hindu, May 14, 2013, P. 6
(Oral Contraceptive Pill)

जननी बेजान, कैसे जन्मे स्वस्थ संतान



अहमद

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महिलाओं में कुपोषण और खून की कमी के बारे में सरकारी दावा राजकीय जनाना अस्पताल में आ रही रक्ताल्प (एनीमिक) महिलाओं की संख्या ने झुठला दिया है। अस्पताल में हर माह औसतन 90 एनीमिक महिलाएं भर्ती हो रही हैं और इनमें कई का हीमोग्लोबिन स्तर इस कदर कम है कि उन्हें जीवित रखने के लिए ही कई यूनिट रक्त चढ़ाना पड़ा। इन महिलाओं में हीमोग्लोबिन का स्तर 2 एचबी से 5 एचबी तक पाया गया, जबकि स्वस्थ महिला के लिए यह 14 से 16 के बीच होना चाहिए। मामले में चिंताजनक स्थिति यह है

कि बीते एक वर्ष में बेहद कम हीमोग्लोबिन वाली महिलाओं की संख्या लगातार बढ़ रही है। राजकीय जनाना अस्पताल के एसएलआर वार्ड में हीमोग्लोबिन स्तर 5 एचबी वाली महिलाओं की संख्या जनवरी 2013 में 66, फरवरी में 52, मार्च में 66 तथा अप्रैल में 98 तक पहुंच चुकी है। इन्हें 2 से 4 यूनिट रक्त देकर इनकी जान बचाई गई। ज्यादातर महिलाएं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की हैं।

आंकड़ों में मिटा कुपोषण

चिकित्सा व स्वास्थ्य विभाग प्रत्येक गर्भवती महिला की जांच व परामर्श का दावा करता है। इसके लिए डाणी स्तर पर उसका पूरा तंत्र है।

विभाग के मूताबिक वर्ष 2012-2013 में गर्भवती महिलाओं का रजिस्ट्रेशन करने में 105.03 प्रतिशत उपलब्धि रही, जिनकी देखभाल की गई। उधर, महिला बाल विकास विभाग जिले में 3148 आंगनवाड़ी केन्द्रों पर बीते एक वर्ष में 2.33 लाख गर्भवती महिलाओं को पूरक पोषाहार का दावा कर रहा है। आहार में महिलाओं को सूखे हलवे का पैकेट और उपमा दिया जाता है। महिला इनके सेवन से रक्त की कमी से बच सकती है।

Rajasthan Patrika, May 14, 2013, P.5

Midwives do more than deliver babies

They are essential to family planning, preventing HIV transmission and gender-based violence, upholding human rights and saving millions of lives

Kate Gilmore

The world needs midwives now more than ever. Every year, approximately 3,500,000 women die while pregnant or giving birth, up to two million newborns die within the first day of life, and there are 2.6 million stillbirths. Thousands more women live with the often debilitating consequences of pregnancy.

An overwhelming majority of maternal and newborn deaths and morbidity occur in countries marked by poverty. The loss of life is driven by gender inequality, inequity and bigotry, resulting in the most human of tragedies: death and injury in the midst of life's reproduction. Maternal and child health is the casualty of choices: choices about where to invest, what policies to pursue, which facilities to build, what commodities to supply, who to train, what competencies to value, which labour forces to promote. Almost two-thirds of maternal and newborn deaths could be averted, roughly 3.6 million lives saved by 2015, if all women delivered were attended by competent, well-equipped midwives. And yet, more than one third of all births take place without a midwife or other skilled health staff.

Pivotal role

Midwives don't just deliver babies. They enable effective family planning, prevent malaria in pregnancy and mother-to-child transmission of HIV. They are essential if we are to: eradicate obstetric fistula, provide culturally sensitive care, prevent deaths from unsafe abortions, address gender based violence, uphold human rights, and save millions of lives.

It is on the basis of this rich calculus that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) understands there is no better health investment than in the spread, support, deepening and valuing of midwifery. In 2008, we partnered with the International Confederation of Midwives to strengthen midwifery. Five years later, our combined work is operational across 30 countries.

Optimism

Challenges remain, but in partnership with governments and donors, things are really moving. At the 2011 ICM World Congress in Durban, 30 partners with UNFPA launched the first ever State of the World's Midwifery

Report (SOWMy). The report has driven change at the national level. Over 35 governments have stood up to its challenge with commitments to strengthen their midwifery workforces, under the Secretary General's "Every Woman Every Child Strategy." Ethiopia, for example, has pledged to quadruple the number of midwives from 2,050 to 8,635, Bangladesh has pledged to train an additional 3,000 while Rwanda has committed itself to training five times more midwives, increasing the ratio from 1/1000,000 to 1/20,000.

There are growing examples of innovation – deployment of interventions, technologies and partnerships – driving new solutions. UNFPA, for example, is proud of its partnership with the Intel Corporation, Jhpiego and World Health Organization that is enabling the development and delivery of multimedia, interactive, e-training modules usable anywhere-anytime, with or without internet connectivity by midwives and front line health workers.

Hurdles

But challenges remain. The demands for financial and human resources to enable trained tutors, well-equipped schools, suitable policies and strong midwifery associations are far from fully met. Most importantly, we must continue to advocate for policies that enable governments to deploy skilled midwives where they are needed most.

And ultimately we must be held accountable. In 2012, midwifery workforce assessments were conducted in eight high burden countries which bear the majority of maternal and newborn deaths: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, India, and Nigeria. This year will see these results released and through them, the real test of our compound progress duly marked.

Midwives are irreplaceable for success in this struggle. And the struggle is to meet a deeply human and profoundly rights-based obligation to stand in life-altering solidarity with women and young people as they manage and enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

(Kate Gilmore is UNFPA Deputy Executive Director. This has been excerpted from her speech at the ongoing Women Deliver Conference in Kuala Lumpur.)

Hindu, May 28, 2013, P. 13
(Role of Midwives)

Saving our mothers

Maternal health, reproductive health and family planning must be integrated into one plan that recognises woman's health as a basic right, writes POONAM MUTTREJA

India has taken several big strides over the past decade to reduce maternal mortality. The results are beginning to show. A decade ago, close to 75,000 women died every year during child birth or due to pregnancy-related causes. By 2010, this number had fallen to 50,000. The country's maternal mortality ratio fell from 301 per 100,000 live births in 2003 to 212 in 2009. The pace is gaining momentum, but is it enough to reach the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of 109 by 2015? The chances are good, provided the State makes a special effort to reach disadvantaged communities.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) have contributed positively in improving the reach of healthcare to women. According to the 2009 Coverage Evaluation Survey, nearly three out of four births were taking place in institutions — up from less than 40% in 2005-06. More than two-thirds (69%) of pregnant women received at least three antenatal checkups, and around 90% received more than two tetanus toxoid injections.

Despite the overall progress, wide disparities and inequities in women's access to healthcare continue to persist. Sadly, access to health services still depends upon where one lives, how educated one is, how rich one is, and to which community one belongs. For instance, as against the national average of 73% of women who gave birth in institutions, the proportion was 54% among women who had no education, 55% among women belonging to the lowest wealth quintile, 57% among Scheduled Tribes, and 68% among rural women.

Those of us working in the field know that the poorest among women, those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in many parts of the country have still to be brought into the fold of an inclusive healthcare system. For example, 26 maternal deaths took place in the Barwani district hospital in Madhya Pradesh over a period of eight months in 2010. Tragically, 21 of these 26 women belonged to Scheduled Tribes. Even more alarming is that an enquiry commissioned by the government found all the 26 maternal deaths to be avoidable.

The Population Foundation of India, supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Maternal Health Task Force, recently convened around 70 leading development practitioners and public health experts for a consultation on maternal health. Participants included SK Sikdar, Abhay Bang, Sharad Iyengar, K Srinath Reddy, AK

Shiva Kumar, Gita Sen, H Sudershan and Leela Visaria.

Seven strong conclusions emerged from the deliberations. One, we must recognise maternal morbidity as a serious health issue. For each woman who dies, an estimated 20 more suffer from infection, injury and disability during pregnancy and childbirth. Some women die, while for others, life is a living death experience. These complications range from fistula, uterine prolapse, painful sexual intercourse, reproductive tract damage and infections, anaemia and even infertility. Maternal morbidity, like maternal mortality, can be easily prevented.

Two, we must integrate maternal health, reproductive health and family planning — now delivered as vertical programmes — into a universal health coverage plan that recognises woman's health as a basic right. For example, anaemia among girls needs to be addressed at a younger age. Waiting till they are pregnant and then treating them for the condition may be too late. Similarly, a substantial number of maternal deaths can be prevented by merely meeting the unmet need for family planning and providing access to safe abortion services. The government of India has taken a right step by announcing a comprehensive strategy on reproductive, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCH+A).

Three, we must focus on the marginalised. Within an overall framework of universal health coverage, the State needs to adopt special and differentiated strategies to reach women in remote rural areas, those belonging to tribal communities, and the more disadvantaged groups in society.

Four, we must improve the quality of care by putting in place adequate guidelines, protocols, checklists and introducing a system of accreditation for facilities and services for both the public and private sector. Five, address the shortage of human resources. Despite the more than 10-fold increase in institutional births over the past five years, there has not been a matching increase in staff strength. Skills of field functionaries such as auxiliary nurse and midwives (ANMs) have been lost as they have

been instructed not to conduct deliveries. Many healthcare providers trained in the Indian systems of medicine fail to recognise clinical symptoms of an obstetric emergency.

Six, ensure greater accountability from the highest level instead of holding the frontline health worker or the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) responsible. A greater involvement of the communities in monitoring the health services, which has begun under the NRHM, needs scaling up with adequate budget allocation. Seven, gaps in knowledge must be addressed. Better monitoring and evaluation systems need to be introduced. A community perspective should be brought into the assessment of service delivery. A robust methodology should be developed for measuring morbidity and collecting real time data. More regular studies on maternal mortality and morbidity should be planned.

The last mile is always the most exhausting, exasperating and difficult to cover. The State needs to give a big push to maternal health.

Poonam Muttreja is Executive Director, Population Foundation of India. The views expressed by the author are personal.



SADLY, ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES STILL DEPENDS UPON WHERE ONE LIVES, HOW EDUCATED ONE IS, HOW RICH ONE IS, AND TO WHICH COMMUNITY ONE BELONGS

Hindustan Times, May 22, 2013, P.10
(Healthcare - Women)

2.5 Health and Nutrition- other issues (*Health Facilities-Urban Poor/Khushi Health Campaign*)

Urban PHCs to work from noon till night

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: To help urban poor go to health facilities after working hours, urban primary health centres, planned under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), will function from noon to 8 p.m. Out-patient departments at standard health facilities worked only in the morning when patients had to go to work, visiting a doctor or hospital would mean losing a day's salary, Anuradha Gupta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said. Another important feature of the NUHM was the inclusion of urban-centric issues: domestic violence, sexual exploitation, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, and child and drug abuse, and gender-related matters. "These are broadly urban issues, but need to be addressed," Ms. Gupta told *The Hindu*. For this, the NUHM would work in coordination with non-governmental and civil society organisations. The NUHM, approved recently by the Cabinet, will run parallel to the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Reproductive and child health programmes apart, it will address communicable and non-communicable diseases, especially State-specific diseases such as sickle-cell and flourosis. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare started the programme on Monday, urging the States to map out slums and unlisted clusters in cities and the health facilities available there in order to identify the gaps in services, and to appoint a nodal officer for coordination. The Ministries of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Urban Development will play an important role in the implementation. Close to 40 per cent of India's population will live in urban centres by 2026, with 25 per cent of them being poor, and 10 per cent vulnerable such as rag-pickers, rickshaw-pullers and homeless children. This population has restricted access to facilities such as health care, housing, and sanitation, resulting in communicable and non-communicable diseases. In phases, the NUHM will cover all cities and towns with a population of over 50,000. Primary health centres will be set up near slums and low-income neighbourhoods. The government is open to roping in the private sector. There will be no health sub-centres. Accredited Social Health Activists will be recruited and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives drafted, one for every 1,000-2,500 slum population (200-500 slum households).

Hindu, May 22, 2013, P. 2
(*Health Facilities-Urban Poor*)

बच्चों के साथ परिवार का इलाज

कुपोषण उन्मूलन के लिए बालक अधिकार आयोग की अनुशंसा

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कुपोषण और बाल मृत्यु प्रकरणों पर नियंत्रण के लिए अब गंभीर बीमारियों से ग्रस्त बच्चों के साथ इनकी माता और भाई-बहनों का उपचार कर अन्य सुविधाएं भी निःशुल्क दी जाएगी। राष्ट्रीय बालक अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग की अनुशंसा पर स्वास्थ्य संचालनालय ने इस संबंध में रतलाम सहित पूरे प्रदेश के स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों को फरमान जारी कर उक्त निर्देश अमल में लाने के लिए कहा है। मिशन संचालक डॉ. एम. गीता के अनुसार, कुपोषण की रोकथाम को लेकर स्वास्थ्य और

बालक अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के निर्देश

भर्ती बच्चों के साथ आर उनके छोटे भाई-बहनों का भी टीकाकरण और स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण किया जाए।
बच्चों की एनिमिया ग्रस्त माताओं का उपचार हो।
स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं के माध्यम से बच्चों के परिवार की भोजन व्यवस्था की जाए।
पोषण पुनर्वास केंद्रों की बेंदों पर ताप चढ़र और कंबलों की व्यवस्था प्राथमिकता से की जाए।
बच्चों का वजन नहीं बढ़ने पर उनका निरंतर उपचार किया जाए।
अब अश्व कार्यकर्ता किसी भी समय कुपोषण के शिकार बच्चों को भर्ती करा सकेगी।
अवकाश के दिन भी दवाइयों और भोजन की व्यवस्था सुहैया कराई जाएगी।

महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के समन्वय से कार्य योजना तैयार की जाएगी। इसके अंतर्गत अब गंभीर कुपोषित बच्चों के भर्ती के लिए स्थायी भर्ती दिवसों की प्रथा समाप्त कर दी गई है। इसी के साथ कुपोषित बच्चों के साथ ही इसकी माता और अन्य परिजनो को भी पौष्टिक भोजन की व्यवस्था निःशुल्क रूप से की जानी है।

Rajasthan Patrika, May 14, 2013, P.7

Spreading happiness

Mohammed Iqbal

A social media campaign promoting the welfare of underprivileged children in Rajasthan's Udaipur district has completed one year of spreading awareness on vital issues such as nutrition, health and education.

Titled *Khushi* (happiness), it has made its presence felt through a blog and on the Facebook platform. The blog uploads success stories of people who have come forward and made a difference to the lives of marginalised children. The Facebook platform discusses issues relating to their education, nutrition and health.

Conceived as a campaign that connects people who think similarly, it searches for individuals genuinely concerned with development and growth of the country and willing to put that extra bit to either churn out new strategies or bring the cause to the notice of common people and policy makers.

Though the campaign started with only seven people, it has now crossed the figure of 25,000 members, while the blog is touching 58,000 page views. People from different professions like professors, teachers, students, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, management graduates, journalists, social workers, writers, development practitioners, etc., are part of the *Khushi* group and taking the campaign forward.

Pavan Kaushik of Udaipur-based Vedanta Resources who carved the

A social media campaign – *Khushi* -- in Udaipur district attempts to tackle nutrition, health and education among children

campaign says it is a non-funding drive that encourages people to come forward and understand the problem and take individual steps for probable solutions. "We even decided to develop the blog and maintain and operate it in-house. Many members have come forward with donations but *Khushi* encourages them to take direct steps. This has brought a sense of belonging towards the campaign."

After one year of operation, the first change that *Khushi* feels it has been able to cultivate is that of people's temperament towards the deprived children. The thoughtful online discussions and debates on education and infrastructure development in rural schools, nutrition and education for street children, problem of children involved in

making crackers, increasing drop-out rate in rural schools, teachers' problem, the menace of begging, child labour, vocational training, among others, have brought forth ideas on how as individuals we are capable of addressing these problems and working towards solutions.

Post launch of the campaign, many members went ahead and took some strong decisions. Some of them now sponsor education of children of their domestic helps, some have employed parents of children who beg on the streets or near traffic-lights, some have gone ahead for adoption, some are providing education to the street children on a regular basis, some are engaged in organising creative workshops for them and some others are collectively taking extra classes in rural schools.

Slowly and steadily, the campaign is gaining momentum. To understand the problems relating to street children, *Khushi* team spent two days with them in the Malla Talai locality of Udaipur. It has also organised a workshop for them and held a painting competition. Here over 125 children between the age of one and 13 years attended, some along with their parents and listened to the *Khushi* team's talk on health and hygiene.

The campaign won the Rotary Community Service Award this year, and Arjuna Award winner athlete Krishna Poonia also joined the campaign with the resolve to take the issue forward.

Hindu, May 6, 2013, P. 8
(*Khushi- Health Campaign*)

3. Women/Gender issues

3.1 Women Empowerment (SHGs/Working Women)

Refer woman aspirant, get double the reward

Cos Introduce Special Internal Referral Programmes To Improve Gender Ratio

Namrata Singh | TNN

Mumbai: Hiring agencies are not the only ones which earn a strong premium when they help companies scout for female talent. Companies are now incentivizing employees with higher cash rewards, promotions and other perks if they refer a woman candidate for job postings internally. Some companies are said to be paying double the amount to employees for referring a woman candidate as compared to a normal referral.

Early this year, HSBC introduced a revised 'Prefer to Refer' programme, wherein it substantially raised the payout to an employee if he or she successfully referred a female candidate for a job posting. The reference fee would be higher for a senior posting. Lenovo India, on the other hand, offers a 15% premium over and above the referral bonus for female candidates, while Accenture doles out greater benefits in the form of perks and promotions to those employees who are able to bring good women candidates for internal jobs.

These actions have been taken to improve the flow of women candidates which, most companies said, is still not up to the mark. "We have a significant number of internal referrals for jobs. While the referral programme was working well, we didn't see that flow of women coming through. So we said we will significantly enhance the referral fee for a successful woman candidate. It was met with a lot of enthusiasm," said Vikram Tandon, head of human resources, HSBC.

HSBC wants to improve its overall gender ratio from the current 68:32 to 60:40 by the end of 2014. "We realized that if we really wanted this to happen, strong commitment would be required to grow the pipeline. We are seeing an improved flow of women candidates now. The payouts have not yet happened because there is a cycle

DIVERSITY PUSH



> Cos are incentivizing employees to internally refer female candidates for job postings

> Rewards include promotions and higher cash payouts, up to 15% over regular referral amounts

> Such internal referrals are also cheaper than an external hiring agency's fees, which may be a third of the candidate's pay

> The incentives are paid out after successful recruitment and integration of the woman candidate, mostly after 6 months

time involved: First the CV comes in, then we hire and confirm the person in six months. But there is good enthusiasm about this in the bank," said Tandon.

Of course, merit here is taken for granted. At Lenovo India, as well, the incentive is paid in cash once the referred and hired candidate completes six months at the company. The payout slabs vary for referring candidates in different bands — the higher the band, the higher the incentives. "Our referral programme helps us to strengthen our talent acquisition strategy by getting into the organization talent who have had successful career in their previous companies. It also helps the person referred to

TRENDING

learn about Lenovo and its culture in advance through the referee and thus integrate with us faster. Given that we have a large employee population in sales, we focus on building diversity in our hiring through the referral programme by giving higher referral bonus to selected female candidates," said Lenovo's Subhankar Roy Chowdhury, HR partner (India) and talent & organizational development leader (Asia-Pacific & Latin America).

To encourage the number of women in the organiza-

tion, Accenture, on the other hand, offers greater benefits, which could even be a promotion or other perks, in case a woman candidate is successfully hired. The benefits differ from each business unit to another, depending on the candidature.

In case of cash payments for internal referrals, such payments made to employees are fully taxable and accounted as other income. Companies see a lot of benefits in a referral programme. "There is a lot of stickiness among people who've been referred for a job. They tend to stay around longer," said Tandon.

Experts at Gi Group India, part of a global recruitment and staffing company, said sectors like IT/ITeS, banking and advertising offer a differential referral benefit in case of a female candidate. The firm said if the gender ratio is very low, companies tend to go for exclusive diversity drives and, based on a robust employee referral system, the benefits may extend internally as well.

The fee to an external hiring agency could go up to one-third of a candidate's annual pay, said industry experts. This is one of the reasons that HSBC prefers to put all its vacancies on the internal job portal first. The bank, which recruits significantly at the entry level from Tier-1, 2 and 3 business schools, is hopeful that 80% of its jobs are filled from within.

Cabinet nod for loans at low interest for Women Self Help Groups

Girija Shivakumar

NEW DELHI: In order to financially strengthen Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) across India, the Union Cabinet has approved key changes to the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), aiming to eradicate poverty in villages by empowering women. Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh announced on Monday that over 25 lakh Women SHGs will now be provided bank loans at an interest rate of seven per cent.

In accordance with the announcement made by Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the 2012-13 Budget, the Union Cabinet on May 1 approved the provision of interest subvention for Women SHGs operating under the NRLM, ensuring that they shall avail loans up to Rs. three lakh at an interest rate of seven per cent per annum.

Initially, the scheme will be started as a pilot project in 150 districts, including the 82 Integrated Action Plan districts affected by naxal violence; and in the rest of the States, 75 per cent of the cost would be borne by the Central government and 25 per cent by the States.

"In 150 districts, all Women SHGs, which are now getting bank loans at 11.5 to 14 per cent rate of interest, will now get it at seven per cent rate of interest," said Mr. Ramesh.

Additionally, Women SHGs that repay loans in time will enjoy an additional three per cent subvention, thereby reducing the effective rate to four per cent. In

the 150 districts, the Central government will bear the entire cost of the interest subvention from the market rate to seven per cent.

The total cost of the project is around Rs.1,650 crore for 2013-14, out of which, Rs.1,400 crore shall be borne by the Central government and Rs. 250 crore by the States.

"Over the next five years, we will move to a situation where the entire cost will be borne by the Centre," added Mr. Ramesh.

In order to improve targeting, the Cabinet has decided to do away with the BPL (below poverty line) category in the NRLM, and instead identify target groups through the Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) process, at the community-level.

Currently, there are nearly 25 lakh Women SHGs in the country, with nearly three crore members and over the next five years, the number is expected to increase to seven crore.

Mr. Ramesh has proposed a separate Nabard-like institution in order to promote Women SHGs to the Finance Minister.

The NRLM was launched by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi in June 2011 — a poverty reduction programme based on employment generation by adoption of a multi-pronged strategy. The program aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor, thereby enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

Hindu, May 7, 2013, P. 11

(SHGs)

Times of India, May 10, 2013, P.22

(Women Empowerment)

Women SHGs will Get Cheaper Loans at 7%

OUR BUREAU
NEW DELHI

The government will soon provide loans at a subsidised rate of 7% to women's self-help groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to promote self employment among rural womenfolk.

"Under the current plan, the total expenditure in the current year will be around ₹1,650 crore, of which ₹1,400 crore will be borne by the central government and the remaining ₹250 crore by the respective states," rural development minister Jairam Ramesh said on Monday.

Currently, a total of 25 lakh such women's SHGs across the country access loans at rates ranging from 11.5% to 14%.

The government expects the number of women's SHGs to swell up to 60 lakh and their total membership to increase to 7 crore in the next five years. Currently, these SHGs have a total of 3 crore members. Commensurate with the rise in the number of SHGs, the government believes that the size of the total loan disbursed to the sector will also increase from ₹20,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore within the time period.

Ramesh has also written to the finance minister to set up a financial institution through an Act of Parliament to increase

Women Empowerment

₹1,650 crore

Total expenditure for the plan in the current year, of which ₹1,400 crore will be borne by the Centre

150

No. of districts, where women SHGs that repay debt on time will get loans at 4% interest rate. Of these, 82 are naxal-affected districts

7 crore

No. of women expected to be working under SHGs in next five years

₹1 lakh crore

Expected loan disbursal to the sector in five years; a five-times growth over the current figure

credit availability to women's SHGs. The cabinet committee on economic affairs had approved the interest subvention scheme on May 1, but the government delayed the announcement owing to the Karnataka polls. The cabinet also ratified the rural develop-

ment ministry's proposal to replace the eligibility criteria of those below the poverty line. "From now, the gram panchayats or gram sabhas will decide the eligibility on the basis of participatory identification of the poor," said Ramesh. Another decision to set up an independent society under the ministry to monitor and evaluate NRLM was also taken, he added.

Later, the government plans to extend loans at 4% rate to women's SHGs in 152 district that repay the debt on time.

"Of the 150 districts, 82 are naxal-affected. In addition, 68 more districts based on the poverty criteria have been chosen," said Ramesh, explaining the extra interest subvention in one sixth of the total districts. The entire burden of ₹650 crore in these districts will be borne by the government. The cost of extending interest subvention to the remaining 473 districts will cost the government a total of ₹1,000 crore, three fourths of which will be borne by the central government and the remaining by the state governments, said Ramesh.

"Out of these 473 districts, 81 belong to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. We have budgeted ₹440 crore for these states. But this will not be sufficient as 60% of the total women SHGs belong to these states. We have budgeted ₹560 crore for the remaining 392 districts," he said.

Hindu, May 7, 2013, P. 9

(SHGs)

Women SHGs to get loans at lower rates



Providing livelihoods: A file photo of women belonging to a self-help group (SHG). The proposal will benefit 2.5 million SHGs and their 30 million women members.

Cabinet clears proposal to give loans at 7% interest rate, and 4% if SHGs repay loans within the stipulated period

BY ELIZABETH ROCHE
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NEW DELHI

The federal cabinet has cleared a proposal to give loans to women self-help groups (SHGs) at 7% interest rate, cheaper than the existing 11.5-14%, bringing the cost of loans on a par with those given to farmers.

SHGs that repay loans within the stipulated period will be eligible for loans at an even cheaper 4% rate, rural development minister Jairam Ramesh told reporters on Monday.

The cabinet took this decision—under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) programme—on 1 May but it was not made public because of restrictions on new announce-

ments because of assembly elections in Karnataka on 5 May.

The NRLM was launched by the rural development ministry in June 2011. Aided in part by the World Bank, the programme aims to create efficient institutional platforms for the rural poor, enabling them to boost household income through sustainable livelihood initiatives and improved access to financial services. The decision comes as the Congress party-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government nears the end of its second five-year term in office. Programmes aimed at the poor and low-income groups have propelled the UPA to power in 2004 and 2009. With its reputation tarnished by a series of graft allegations in the second term, the government is looking at ways to improve its image ahead of national elections that are due in May 2014.

"The cabinet has approved the provision of interest subvention to women SHGs, enabling them to avail loans up to ₹300,000 at an interest rate of 7%," said a

statement issued by the rural development ministry. "The initiative, in the first phase, would focus on 150 districts, including the 82 districts, affected by Left-wing extremism."

The decision by the cabinet was "pursuant to the announcement made by finance minister P. Chidambaram in the 2012-13 budget", the rural development ministry statement said.

The other districts will be chosen on the basis of their poverty levels, Ramesh said. In these districts, "the central government will bear the entire cost of interest subvention," Ramesh said, adding in other parts of the country, the cost of interest subvention will be shared between the Centre and the state with the former shouldering 75% of the cost and the latter 25%.

In all, the proposal will benefit 2.5 million SHGs and their 30 million women members. In the next five years, these numbers are expected to grow to 6 million SHGs and 70 million members, the minister said.

The total amount of money

that will be spent by the central and the state governments this year would be ₹1,650 crore, Ramesh said.

N.C Saxena, a former secretary in the ministry of rural development, was sceptical about the announcement, saying that the SHG movement in states such as Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were very weak. "In these areas, credit is not the most important requirement, it is the promotion of the SHGs," he said, adding that the ministry should look at introducing activities that will foster SHG activity.

Ramesh said that he has "proposed to the finance minister (P. Chidambaram) that a separate NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) like institution for women self-help groups be set up."

In another change to the existing framework of the NRLM, the cabinet approved "that target groups (like SHGs) under NRLM will be determined by a well defined, transparent and equitable process of Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP)" at the level of the gram sabha and gram panchayats. "The PIP process will also have a set of exclusion criteria, automatic inclusion criteria and a set of deprivation indicators for enabling poverty ranking in a participatory manner. This delinks NRLM target group from the BPL list," the statement said.

Currently, only those rural households included in the official below poverty line estimates—prepared in 2002, with many defects and not updated since—are targeted by the NRLM, the government statement said. The changes will provide additional resources and the flexibility to implement the NRLM in a more effective manner, Ramesh said, adding that the cabinet also approved the setting up of an "autonomous, adequately staffed, professionally managed and empowered agency at the national level to implement the NRLM", called the National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society that would provide technical support to the NRLM.

Economic Times, May 7, 2013, P.9

(SHGs)

पांच वर्षों में सात करोड़ महिलाओं को स्वावलंबी बनाएगी केंद्र सरकार

विजय गुप्ता

नई दिल्ली। समाज में पुरुषों की हर क्षेत्र में बराबरी कर रही महिलाओं को स्वावलंबी बनाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने नई पहल की है। राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन (एनआरएलएम) के तहत सरकार ने अगले पांच वर्षों में सात करोड़ गरीब ग्रामीण महिलाओं को रोजगार परक बनाने की योजना पेश की है। इसके तहत पैंतीस लाख नए महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। इन समूहों को सरकार सात फीसदी की ब्याज दर पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराएगी। समय पर ऋण वापस करने वाले समूहों को केंद्र सरकार ब्याज दर में तीन फीसदी की और रियायत देगी।

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री जयराम रमेश ने बताया कि ग्रामीण महिलाओं को स्वावलंबी बनाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने एनआरएलएम में गरीबी

महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने पेश की योजना

35 लाख नए महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह बनेंगे

रेखा से नीचे की श्रेणी की बाध्यता को समाप्त कर दिया है। अब गरीबों का चयन ग्राम पंचायत स्वयं करेगी। इन गरीब महिलाओं के स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाए जाएंगे। अभी तक देशभर में 25 लाख महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह हैं। जिसे अगले पांच वर्षों में बढ़ाकर साठ लाख करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। इन समूहों में महिलाओं की हिस्सेदारी बतौर सदस्य सात करोड़ तक ले जाने की योजना है।

उन्होंने बताया कि महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों के काम को गति देने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने रियायती ब्याज दर पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराने

की योजना बनायी है। अभी इन समूहों को बैंकों के जरिए 12 से 14 फीसदी की ब्याज दर पर ऋण मिलता है। लेकिन नई योजना के तहत सरकार सात फीसदी की ब्याज दर पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराएगी। यही नहीं जो समूह समय पर अपने ऋण की वापसी करेंगे। उन्हें ब्याज दर में तीन फीसदी की छूट भी मिलेगी। इस तरह से महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों को लिए गए कर्ज पर सिर्फ चार फीसदी की दर से ही ब्याज देना पड़ेगा। रियायती ब्याज दर पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराने में केंद्र सरकार को सालाना एक लाख करोड़ रुपये की सब्सिडी का बोझ उठाना पड़ेगा।

Amar Ujala, May 9, 2013, P.9
(Women Empowerment)

वर्किंग वुमन और माहौल

महिलाओं की बेहतरी को लेकर तमाम दावे पेश करने वाले हमारे देश में कामकाजी महिलाओं की तादाद कम हो रही है। पढ़ी-लिखी महिलाओं की ज्यादा तादाद शहरों में होती है। फिर भी भारत के जिस मेट्रो शहर में सबसे ज्यादा महिलाएं काम कर रही हैं, वहां का प्रतिशत भी खास आकर्षक नहीं है। हाल ही में कुछ चौकाने वाले तथ्य सामने आए हैं, जो बताते हैं कि भारत की राजधानी दिल्ली में कामकाजी महिलाएं दूसरे बड़े भारतीय शहरों के मुकाबले बहुत कम हैं। इस मामले में बंगलुरु सबसे आगे बताया गया है जहां 24.3 फीसदी महिलाएं कामकाजी हैं। दूसरे नंबर पर 19.4 प्रतिशत के साथ चेन्नई है। फिर मुंबई का नंबर आता है 18.8 फीसदी के साथ। दिल्ली से 7.3 फीसदी ऊपर तो कोलकाता है जहां 17.9 फीसदी महिलाएं कामकाजी हैं। ये आंकड़े रजिस्ट्रार जनरल और सेंसस कमिशन ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा जारी किए गए हैं। महिलाओं का घर से बाहर निकलकर काम करना कामकाजी माहौल पर निर्भर करता है। जितना यह खुला और सहज होगा, उतनी ही सुविधा महिलाओं को होगी। अफसोस की बात है कि दिल्ली में पिछले 15 बरसों से एक महिला मुख्यमंत्री के होते हुए भी ऐसा माहौल नहीं बन पा रहा है। यहां लगातार बन रहे स्त्री विरोधी माहौल ने काम करने की इच्छुक महिलाओं के उत्साह को मारा है। दिल्ली में 53.1 फीसदी पुरुषों के मुकाबले कामकाजी महिलाएं केवल 10.6 फीसदी हैं। देश में शहरी के मुकाबले ग्रामीण कामकाजी महिलाओं की तादाद दुगनी है तो यह स्वाभाविक है। कुल कामकाजी महिलाओं का 65 फीसदी कृषि क्षेत्र में है। घरेलू काम करने वाली महिलाओं की तादाद भी तेजी से बढ़ी है। लेकिन पढ़ी-लिखी शहरी महिलाओं में कई ऐसी भी मिल जाएंगी जिन्हें बड़ी कंपनियों से ऑफर तो मिल गए, पर वे काम पर जाने को राजी नहीं हुईं। कामकाज के माहौल के हिसाब से बंगलुरु महिलाओं के लिए सबसे अच्छा शहर है। वहां देश भर से पहुंची महिलाएं अपने-अपने क्षेत्रों में काम कर रही हैं। लेकिन अहमदाबाद दिल्ली से कुछ ही बेहतर है। वहां 11.7 फीसदी महिलाएं काम कर रही हैं। कई जगह महिलाएं जमीन और खेती के काम से मुक्त होना चाहती हैं, लेकिन उन्हें मनचाहा काम नहीं मिल पा रहा। इधर घरेलू काम में भी क्राफ्टी कमी आ गई है और ऐसी जगहें तो दूढ़ने पर ही मिल सकेंगी जहां कोयंबटूर की कुछ फैक्ट्रियों की तरह महिलाओं को होस्टल की सुविधा भी मिले। बहुतेरी महिलाएं ऐसी भी हैं जो अपनी घरेलू जिम्मेदारियां महसूस करते हुए नौकरी छोड़ देती हैं।

Nav Bharat Times (H) , May 14, 2013, P.10
(Working Women)

3.3 Violence and Crime against Women (Rape Cases/Sexual Offences)



Times of India, May 10, 2013, P.6
(Rapes Cases)



Nav Bharat Times (H), May 10, 2013, P.5
(Rapes Cases)



Punjab Kesari, May 6, 2013, P.6
(Rape Cases)



Punjab Kesari, May 13, 2013, P.8
(Rapes Cases)

Sexual offences rising in trains, 210 cases in 2012

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NEW DELHI: Sexual offences against women travelling on trains are on the rise. According to reports, around 210 cases - including those of rape, molestation and misbehavior - were registered in 2012. The number is astounding as only 127 cases had been reported the previous year, with only 85 such crimes being registered in 2010.

The Delhi division of Northern Railway alone had seen 7,000 people being arrested and prosecuted for boarding or travelling on coaches reserved for ladies and other crimes in 2012. As many as 130 alleged offenders currently are facing trial in courts.

The National Commission for Women has also expressed concern over the rise in such cases on trains. The commission's chairperson Mamta Sharma during her interaction with railway protection force officials in the Capital on Thursday called for sensitization of the police force to protect women from sexual offences on trains.

She said the RPF could do a lot to prevent and detect trafficking of women since trains are frequently used for such crimes. The chief security commissioner of the RPF, Harananda, has in turn also asked his force to act more effectively and ensure security of women.

"The problem is the representation of women in RPF is less than 2 per cent across states. We are trying to increase it to 10 per cent," admitted a senior railway official. The entire Delhi division which deals with lakhs of women passengers daily has only 76 women RPF personnel, who escort ladies special trains and other suburban trains that have ladies coaches.

"We have formed five special 'Bhairavi' teams to ensure security checks and book offenders," said a Northern Railway official. On its suburban network, Northern Railway's Delhi division runs three ladies special trains from New Delhi to Palwal, Ghaziabad and Panipat. There are 100-odd suburban trains which carry lakhs of passengers every day from Delhi to places like Ghaziabad, Meerut, Shamli, Panipat, Rohtak, Rewari, Faridabad, Palwal and Mathura.

According to reports, seven incidents of rapes on trains were reported from across the country in 2012, compared to only three in 2011. Molestation cases on trains have gone up from 52 in 2010 to 72 in 2011. The number in 2012 was 119.

Cases of misbehaviour has increased from 33 in 2010 to 52 in 2011. As many as 84 cases were reported in 2012.

Around 120 people were arrested for crimes against women in 2010, the number shot up to 146 in 2011 and 170 in 2012. Currently, 1,275 trains are being escorted by RPF daily on an average, in addition to 2,220 trains escorted by government railway police in various states.

ALARMING RISE	
Countrywide	
Sex crimes	
2010	85
2011	127
2012	210
7 rapes on trains were reported in 2012, compared to only three in 2011.	
119 molestation cases in 2012 against 72 in 2011	
Delhi division	
= 7,000 people arrested for travelling on women's compartment and other crime against women in 2012.	
= 130 alleged offenders are facing court trials.	
The constraint	
= Representation of women in RPF is less than 2 per cent across states.	
= Delhi division has only 76 women RPF personnel.	

Hindustan Times, May 5, 2013, P.4

(Sexual Offences)

More than 2-fold rise in rape cases this year

New Delhi: Delhi has witnessed a more than two-fold rise in rape cases this year with police saying that in 97 per cent of the cases, the victims knew the accused, majority of whom were friends and lovers or neighbours.

According to figures, the city reported 463 rape cases till April 15 this year as against 179 during the same period last year. Of the 463 cases, police statistics said 178 accused were 'friends and lovers' followed by neighbours in 115 of the cases. The city has witnessed a surge in crime against women with rape cases growing by 158 per cent this year while molestation incidents witnessed a six times growth and eve-teasing cases rose by eight times.

A total of 973 molestation cases were reported this year, as compared to 139 last year, while eve-teasing cases increased from 49 to 433. Eighty five per cent of rape cases this year have been worked out while the figures for molestation and eve-teasing are 86 and 95.8 per cent, a police official said.

SR

Pioneer, May 6, 2013, P.2

(Rape Cases)

3.4 Women in difficult circumstance / Women in distress (Vrindavan/Varanasi Widows)

Finally, widows in Vrindavan and Mathura to get a roof over their heads

Smriti Kak Ramachandran

NEW DELHI: Abandoned and forced to live as destitutes, widows in Vrindavan and Mathura will finally have a roof over their heads and decent living spaces. On Tuesday, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), an undertaking under Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, announced that it will create habitable living units for these women who are forced to live in inhuman conditions.

HUDCO will also provide its expertise and services for reconstruction of existing struc-

tures, which are dilapidated and without facilities for housing women in distress.

HUDCO signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Commission for Women whereby the two entities will utilise their respective strengths to improve the living conditions of destitute women and upgrade facilities like women's hostels, remand homes and wherever women are in custodial places.

Homes and shelters for women in distress or halfway homes have been severely criticised for their uninhabitable, unhygienic and unsafe living conditions. HUPA Minister Ajay Maken said the

agreement aspires to improve on this aspect. He said in the past three years HUDCO has spent Rs.43 crore for undertaking activities under the corporate social responsibility.

As per the new agreement with the NCW, it will provide technical support, design, construct and improve the living conditions of women in distress. "To begin with HUDCO will undertake a project for widows in Vrindavan and Mathura area," he said expressing hope that the agreement will open new avenues for other public sector undertakings and private companies to come forward to help wom-

en in need.

HUDCO and NCW will join forces to cooperate in the areas of re-construction of existing structures where women in distress are housed, provide living quarters complete with kitchens and toilets, said an official of the HUPA Ministry.

"As per the agreement construction of living quarters, kitchens and toilets in pre-identified sites, providing support in design of the building, monitoring the progress of each project and any other activity which is mutually considered important or relevant by HUDCO and NCW has been agreed upon," the official said.

NCW for its part will identify the areas where the projects need to be undertaken, based on the vulnerability and need. The Commission will be mandated to mark out the areas that need development and HUDCO will provide financial assistance for implementation of these projects along with technical advice, if required.

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath said the agreement will provide better living condition for women in distress and expressed hope that this cooperation will be strengthened in future.

Hindu, May 18, 2013, P. 2

(Vrindavan Widows)

Sages break tradition to dine with Varanasi widows

Sanjay Pandey

LUCKNOW: A history of sort was created in Varanasi, formerly known as Kashi, on Monday when a large number of high-caste Hindu seers and Sanskrit scholars shared a meal with more than 100 widows, who are often considered "untouchables" in orthodox Hindu society.

Widows from different parts of the country who are living in different ashrams in Varanasi broke traditions, with prominent Sanskrit

scholars and saints at a function held at Kashi Vidyapeeth in the holy city.

The function was organised by Sulabh International, a non-government organisation (NGO) active in the field of sanitation.

"It was an exercise to create awareness against the practice of widowhood in the country. Such programmes will help end this treatment," said Sulabh International founder Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, who sought support of the Hindu seers, saints and Sanskrit pun-

ditions to oppose widowhood. The seers and scholars also hailed the efforts to allow the widows to lead a normal life. "Such programmes will go a long way in sensitising people towards the plight of widows," they said.

Pathak said he intended to draft a bill to improve the condition of widows abandoned by their families.

He urged all political parties to support the proposed legislation.

"I will also meet UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Sushma Swaraj, and appeal to them to introduce this draft bill in Parliament," he said.

The organisation had last month launched a pension scheme for widows under which each of them would be given Rs 2,000 every month. Sulabh had launched a similar monthly pension scheme in Vrindavan a few months ago.

The pension will enable the widows to take care of their health and other needs.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, May 28, 2013, P.12

(Varanasi Widows)

3.5 Women Safety/Support services (Women Helpline/Safety Tips)

बड़े शहर महिलाओं के लिए बन सकते हैं खतरनाक

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसियां)। चलती बस में एक युवती के साथ बर्बर सामूहिक बलात्कार की घटना के परिप्रेक्ष्य में संसद की एक समिति ने आगाह किया है कि यदि सरकार पूरी गंभीरता से कदम नहीं उठाती है तो बड़े शहर महिलाओं और बच्चों के लिए खतरनाक जगह बन सकते हैं। महिला सशक्तिकरण पर संसदीय समिति ने कहा कि पुलिस के पास आधुनिक उपकरण होने के बावजूद बड़े शहर अपराधियों के लिए सुरक्षित पनाहाह बन रहे हैं। समिति ने सुझाव दिया कि पुलिस को मानवीय प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य लेकर देश में जीर्ण शोध पढ़ चुकी पुलिस व्यवस्था को ओवरहाल करने का इमानदारी से प्रयास करने की आवश्यकता है। राजकुमारी रत्ना सिंह की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने सरकार से आग्रह किया कि बड़े शहरों में महिलाओं और बच्चों पर बढ़ रहे अपराधों के रूप में मिल रही चुनौती को समझने के लिए वह एक विशेषज्ञ समूह का गठन करे। यह समूह 21वीं सदी के अनुरूप व्यावहारिक समाधान सुझाएगा।

समिति ने कहा कि बड़े शहरों में अभी भी महिलाओं पर अपराधों की बाढ़ धमकी रहती है और बलात्कार, छेड़छाड़, महिलाओं एवं बच्चों के अपहरण जैसी घटनाएं रोजाना की बात हो गयी है, जो शर्मनाक बात है। हाल ही में संसद में पेश समिति की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 2011 में दस लाख से ऊपर आबादी वाले 53 बड़े शहरों में महिलाओं पर अपराध के 33789 मामले प्रकाश में आए। 2010 में यह आंकड़ा 24335 था। सूची में दिल्ली शीर्ष पर है और कुल मामलों के 13.3 प्रतिशत मामले यहाँ के हैं। बंगलुरु, हैदराबाद और विजयवाड़ा का स्थान उसके बाद है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कुल बलात्कार के मामलों के 17.6 प्रतिशत मामले दिल्ली में होते हैं। अपहरण के कुल मामलों में से 31.8 प्रतिशत मामले दिल्ली में होते हैं। दहेज हत्या के मामलों में दिल्ली का प्रतिशत 14 है। पिछले साल 16 दिसम्बर को चलती बस में युवती के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार की वारदात पर समिति ने कहा कि इस घटना ने आधुनिक पुलिस व्यवस्था और महिलाओं की सुरक्षा की अवधारणा को पूरी तरह संकट में डाल दिया है।

■ संसदीय समिति की रिपोर्ट में किया गया आगाह

Dikshit seeks better response system for women's helpline

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's 181 helpline for women in distress, which was launched in the wake of the December 16 gang-rape, has received over two lakh calls in the last four-and-half months.

Officials said most of the calls received by the round-the-clock help line were related to stalking, eye-teasing, obscene calls and facing sexual abuse and domestic harassment. The helpline was launched on December 31 last year to help women in distress and check increasing rate of crime against the fairer sex.

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on Thursday reviewed functioning of the helpline at a high-level meeting attended by representatives of various stakeholders, including police, Delhi Commission for Women and department of women and child welfare. The Chief Minister asked all stakeholders to work in close cooperation to ensure a better response system for women in distress and suggested that cyber crime targeting the fairer sex should also be taken up seriously as there has been increasing cases of such crimes.

Dikshit, who was brain behind launch of the helpline, also asked Health Department to procure five well equipped ambulances exclusively to offer medical help to women victims of various forms of violence. Following a suggestion by Dikshit, the stakeholders decided to meet at least once in two months to review the functioning of the 181 helpline as well as the follow up response mechanism by various agencies. The helpline operates from the Chief Minister's office in Delhi Secretariat.

Expressing satisfaction over performance of people running the helpline, Dikshit said a number of States have shown interests to set up similar facilities for women.

महिलाओं की सुरक्षा को लेकर रेलवे भी सतर्क

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। महिलाओं और बच्चियों के साथ बलात्कार की बढ़ती घटनाओं से रेलवे भी चिंतित हो गया है। रेलवे स्टेशनों तथा समाज में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा तथा सम्मान के मुद्दे को लेकर एक संगोष्ठी का आयोजन इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में किया गया। राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग तथा रेलवे की ओर से आयोजित इस संगोष्ठी का उद्देश्य मौजूदा समय में महिलाओं व बच्चियों के साथ समाज में बढ़ रही बलात्कार तथा छेड़छाड़ की घटनाओं की रोकथाम के लिए कारगर कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा करना था।

संगोष्ठी में शामिल राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष ममता शर्मा ने समाज में महिलाओं व बच्चियों पर हो रहे अपराधों पर चिंता जाहिर करते हुए रेलवे सुरक्षा बल से बिना लिमिटेड भेदभाव के कार्य करने की अपील की। इस मौके पर उत्तर रेलवे के अरपीएफ महानिरीक्षक इरानंद ने कहा कि रेलवे प्रतिदिन देश के करीब दो करोड़ यात्रियों को उनके गंतव्य तक पहुंचाने का काम करता है। उन्होंने रेलवे अधिकारियों व कर्मचारियों से अपील करते हुए कहा कि वह यात्रियों खासकर महिलाओं व बच्चों की हिफाजत तथा निगरानी के प्रति विशेष तौर पर सजग रहें। वहीं उप-मुख्य सुरक्षा आयुक्त जितेंद्र श्रीवास्तव, राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग की सदस्या सिरुष्मा मिश्रा चौधरी, निर्मला सामंत, हेमलता खेरिया समेत अनेक पदाधिकारियों ने अपने विचार रखे। संगोष्ठी में उत्तर रेलवे के आयुक्त से कोस्टेबल पद के करीब 250 महिला व पुरुष कर्मियों ने शिरकत की।

Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 4, 2013, P.5 (Women Safety)

Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 10, 2013, P.13

Pioneer, May 17, 2013, P.2 (Women Helpline)

Booklet lists safety tips for women

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IN THE BOOKLET

- Never project yourself as weak because it is counter-productive. Try and maintain an appearance that does not project a negative self-image
- Do not appear careless or distracted to an extent that it might seem easy to attack you
- Store helpline numbers on mobile's speed dial like police, fire, ambulance and safety buddy.

organised by Delhi police and Invictus Survival Sciences. Store helpline numbers on your mobile phone's speed dial like that of police, fire department, ambulance and safety buddy,' the booklet states.

According to the booklet, a safety buddy is someone from your family or friends circle who you always keep updated about your location and can be contacted in emergency situations. Women must maintain an appearance that does not project a negative self-image, it adds.

NEW DELHI: Appear confident and do not freeze under stress. And don't look vulnerable. These and many such tips are being doled out by an NGO with whom the Delhi police have tied up as part of its women safety initiative.

A booklet called 'Safe: Safety Awareness for Everyone' has been prepared by the NGO called Invictus Survival Sciences and is being distributed by the police unit for women and children and the NGO. The booklet also gives relevant information regarding important helpline numbers. "Learn how to defend yourself in real life situations — attend self-defence camps

Hindustan Times, May 26, 2013, P.2 (Safety Tips-Women)

REALITY CHECK

The Delhi government and Delhi Police made a slew of commitments to make Delhi safe for women, but have things changed at all? Most changes, it appears, are cosmetic.

Delhi L-G directed the police to convert all complaints by women into criminal cases.

Additional 500 personnel put on night patrolling, especially around markets and malls.

FACT: Police checks on large, busy roads have increased, but neighbourhoods remain deserted.

Poorly-lit road stretches identified and agencies concerned asked to improve lighting.

FACT: Most roads - stretches around M-block GK 1, Aurobindo Marg, Chirag Delhi, Todarmal Lane, Vakil Lane, Ridge Road T-point and SP Marg, among others - remain poorly lit.

Guards in DTC buses after 10 pm, random checks on public and private vehicles after 10 pm.

FACT: Random checking more visible. After dark, PCR personnel have to escort any woman who feels unsafe. Women PCR launched to help women victims

FACT: Impact unknown.

CRIME SHEET

Rapes and molestations in Delhi have shot up since December. Police claim it is because of its pro-activism but the skeptics say it's because more women are stepping forward to complain.

Category	2012	2013	Increase
Rape cases (till April 15)	179	463	159%
Molestation cases	139	973	600%
Eve-teasing cases	49	433	784%

Rashtriya Sahara (H), May 10, 2013, P.4

अपराध पीड़ितों को मिले मुआवजा

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने संबंधित कानून पर ध्यान न देने पर जताया अफसोस

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : कानून के बावजूद आपराधिक मामलों में पीड़ितों को भुला देने और उन्हें हुए नुकसान व पीड़ा का मुआवजा नहीं देने पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चिंता और अफसोस जताया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अदालतों को निर्देश दिया है कि वे प्रत्येक आपराधिक मामले में पीड़ित को मुआवजा देने पर विचार करें। मुआवजे के पहलु पर विचार करना अदालतों के लिए कानूनन अनिवार्य है। इतना ही नहीं अदालतें मुआवजा देने या न देने का कारण भी आदेश में दर्ज करें। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यह फैसला महाराष्ट्र में हत्या के एक मामले में सुनाया है। मामले में दोषी अंकुश शिवाजी गायकवाड़ को सत्र अदालत ने उम्रकैद की सजा सुनाई थी, जिसे हाई कोर्ट ने बरकरार रखा था।



अहम फैसला

अदालतें पीड़ित को मुआवजा देने या नहीं देने का कारण भी बताएं

मुआवजे की राशि तथ्यों, परिस्थिति, अपराध की प्रकृति और पीड़ित की क्षमता पर निर्भर करेगी

“ अगर कानून के बावजूद अदालतें मुआवजा देने पर विचार नहीं करेंगी, तो आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में पीड़ित भूला हुआ ही रहेगा। कानूनन पीड़ित को मुआवजा देने या न देने पर विचार करना कोर्ट के लिए अनिवार्य है।

किया गया है। किसी मामले में मुआवजा दिया जाए या न दिया जाए यह तय करना कोर्ट का विवेकाधिकार है, लेकिन इस पर विचार करना उसके लिए अनिवार्य है। मुआवजे का मुद्दा तय करने के लिए जरूरी है कि अदालतों के समक्ष इस बारे में सामग्री हो, जिसका आकलन कर वे निष्कर्ष पर पहुंच सकें। इस बात में कोई विवाद नहीं है कि मुआवजे का मुद्दा अभियुक्त को दोषी ठहराने के बाद ही आता है। दोषी को मुआवजा अदा करने की क्षमता भी महत्वपूर्ण पहलु होगा। अदालत को सजा और मुआवजे पर फैसला देने से पहले इस बारे में पड़ताल भी करनी पड़ेगी।

मुआवजे की राशि प्रत्येक मामले के तथ्यों और परिस्थितियों, अपराध की प्रकृति और पीड़ित की क्षमता पर निर्भर करेगी। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आपराधिक मामले में पीड़ित को मुआवजा देने के देश और विदेश में मौजूद कानूनों का विस्तृत वर्णन किया है। सीआरपीसी में इस बाबत किए गए संशोधन को भी फैसले में दर्ज किया गया है। कोर्ट ने हत्या के मामले को घोर लापरवाही में तब्दील करते हुए दोषी अंकुश गायकवाड़ की उम्रकैद को घटाकर पांच साल कैद कर दिया है।

अपराध पीड़ितों के हित में यह महत्वपूर्ण फैसला न्यायमूर्ति टीएस ठाकुर और ज्ञान सुधा मिश्रा की पीठ ने अपराध प्रक्रिया संहिता (सीआरपीसी) की धारा-357 की व्याख्या करते हुए सुनाया। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसले की प्रति उच्च न्यायालयों को भेजने का आदेश भी दिया है, ताकि आपराधिक मामलों की सुनवाई कर रहे देश भर के न्यायाधीशों

को इस आदेश की जानकारी मिल सके। कोर्ट ने कहा है कि पीड़ित को मुआवजा देने का कानून इसलिए बनाया गया, ताकि पीड़ित को यह न लगे कि उसे भुला दिया गया है।

पीठ ने कहा कि अगर सीआरपीसी की धारा-357 में अदालतें आपराधिक मामलों में मुआवजे के पहलु पर विचार

करने का दायित्व नहीं निभाएंगी, तो इस कानून को बनाने का उद्देश्य ही निष्फल हो जाएगा।

फैसले में कहा गया है कि न सिर्फ अदालतों का कर्तव्य है कि वे प्रत्येक आपराधिक मामले में मुआवजे के पहलु पर विचार करें, बल्कि वे फैसले में यह भी बताएं भी कि इस पर विचार

Dainik Jagran (H), May 15, 2013, P.1

(Support Service-Women)

‘महिलाओं को सुरक्षा दे सरकार’

बढ़ रही ईव टीजिंग पर हाई कोर्ट का नोटिस

राजेश चौधरी || हाई कोर्ट

जवाब दो...

दिल्ली में ईव टीजिंग की घटनाओं में 2013 में 783 फीसदी का इजाफा हो चुका है। इस मामले में हाई कोर्ट में अर्जी दाखिल कर जानकारी दी गई और अदालत से गृहार लगाई गई कि केंद्र सरकार को जिम्मेदार है कि वह राजधानी में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित कराए। इस मामले में दाखिल याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान अदालत ने केंद्र सरकार को नोटिस जारी किया है और मामले की अगली सुनवाई के लिए 14 अगस्त को तारीख तय की है।



याचिकाकर्ता की ओर से एडवोकेट गौरव बंसल ने अर्जी दाखिल कर कहा कि दिल्ली में महिलाओं और लड़कियों के साथ छेड़छाड़ की घटना में बेहद इजाफा हुआ है। दिल्ली पुलिस की वेबसाइट का हवाला देकर अर्जी में कहा गया है कि 2013 में इसमें 783 फीसदी का इजाफा हुआ है। एक एनजीओ के सर्वे का हवाला देकर कहा गया है कि दिल्ली में 95 महिलाएं पब्लिक प्लेस में खुद को सुरक्षित महसूस नहीं करतीं। पार्क व गलियों में 80 फीसदी महिलाएं अपने को असुरक्षित महसूस नहीं करती हैं। अर्जी में कहा गया है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट को गाइड लाइंस को लागू किया जाए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 2012 में गाइड लाइंस जारी कर सरकार से कहा था कि वह

- लड़कियों के साथ बढ़ती छेड़छाड़ की घटनाओं पर एक याचिका दाखिल की गई
- दिल्ली पुलिस की वेबसाइट और एक एनजीओ के सर्वे को बनाया गया है आधार
- कोर्ट ने सरकार को नोटिस जारी कर अगली सुनवाई के लिए 14 अगस्त की डेट तय की है

छेड़छाड़ रोकने के लिए कदम उठाए। याचिकाकर्ता का कहना है कि दिल्ली पुलिस ने खुद ही बयान दिया था कि महिलाओं के खिलाफ रेप के मामलों में 158 फीसदी, ईव टीजिंग में 783 फीसदी और छेड़छाड़ में 600 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। पुलिस को रिपोर्ट से साफ है कि हाल के दिनों में इस तरह की घटनाओं में काफी इजाफा हुआ है। याचिकाकर्ता के वकील ने बताया कि

ईव टीजिंग से होने वाला ट्रामा इतना भयानक होता है कि महिलाएं और गर्ल स्टूडेंट्स अपने साथ होने वाली घटनाओं को अपने परिवार से भी शेर कर देने में हिचकिचाती हैं। मामले में याचिकाकर्ता ने गृह मंत्रालय, दिल्ली सरकार और पुलिस कमिश्नर को प्रतिवादी बनाया था। हाई कोर्ट ने नोटिस जारी कर जवाब दाखिल करने को कहा है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट की गाइडलाइंस

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ईव टीजिंग रोकने के लिए पिछले साल गाइड लाइंस जारी की थी। सरकार को निर्देश दिए थे कि वह ईव टीजिंग को रोकने के लिए कदम उठाए। अदालत ने सरकार से कहा था कि वह तमाम पब्लिक प्लेस जैसे बस स्टॉप, पार्क, मॉल आदि जगहों पर साथी वर्दी में महिला पुलिस तैनात करें ताकि ईव टीजिंग रोकने में मदद मिले। पब्लिक प्लेस पर सीसीटीवी लगाया जाए तमाम इंस्ट्रक्शन के इंचार्ज की ड्यूटी हो कि वह ईव टीजिंग की शिकायत पर तुरंत एक्शन ले और इस बारे में थाने में सूचित करे। अगर पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट में ईव टीजिंग की घटना की शिकायत मिले तो चालक तुरंत वाहन को मास के थाने में ले जाए।

महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सर्वोपरि : कृष्णा तीरथ



रिठाला में आयोजित सभा में मौजूद केंद्रीय महिला व बाल विकास मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ।

जागरण

जागरण संवाददाता, बाहरी दिल्ली : केंद्रीय महिला व बाल विकास मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ ने कहा कि महिलाओं की सुरक्षा को लेकर केंद्र सरकार चिंतित है और इसके लिए कई योजनाएं बनाकर उन्हें लागू भी किया गया है। कृष्णा तीरथ सोमवार को रिठाला वार्ड में आयोजित एक सभा को संबोधित कर रही थीं। उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाएं आत्मनिर्भर होकर समाज की मुख्यधारा से जुड़ें। इसके लिए केंद्र सरकार ने कई कल्याणकारी योजनाओं को लागू किया है। सभा का आयोजन वार्ड के

रोहिणी सेक्टर 5 व 6 की 13 मीटर चौड़ी सड़कों के निर्माण कार्य का शुभारंभ के मौके पर किया गया था। सभा की अध्यक्षता क्षेत्रीय निगम पार्षद शशिबाला गोपाल सिंह ने की। उन्होंने क्षेत्र के लोगों की सुविधाओं को लेकर करार गए विकास कार्यों के बारे में जानकारी भी दी। इस मौके पर कांग्रेस ब्लाक अध्यक्ष दिलीप उप्पल, सोनियर सिटीजन एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष सोता राम शर्मा व पूर्व प्रधान हरौराम शर्मा सहित कई लोग मौजूद थे।

Dainik Jagran (H), May 28, 2013, P.3

(Women Safety)

Nav Bharat Times (H), May 30, 2013, P.9

(Women Safety)

महिलाओं से जुड़े मामले प्राथमिकता-न्यायमूर्ति सवासिधम

गुडगांव सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायधीन एवं राष्ट्रीय विधिक सेवाएं प्राधिकरण के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति पी सवासिधम ने कहा कि दिल्ली में युवती के साथ हुई शर्मनाक घटना के बाद हम (न्यायपालिका) महिलाओं और बच्चों से जुड़े केसों की पहचान करके उन्हें प्राथमिकता देने के लिए न्यायमूर्तियों का आह्वान किया कि वे यह समझें कि हर सार्वजनिक संपत्ति हम सभी की है, इसलिए हमें उसकी रक्षा करनी चाहिए।

न्यायमूर्ति सवासिधम गुडगांव जिला के भोडाकरला स्थित ओम शांति रिट्रीट सेंटर में इरियाणा विधिक सेवाएं प्राधिकरण द्वारा आयोजित विद्यार्थी कानूनी साक्षरता मिलन के चौथे वार्षिक समारोह में वक्ता मुख्य अतिथि बोल रहे थे। इस अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा, न्यायमूर्ति सवासिधम को पत्नी सरस्वती सवासिधम, मुख्यमंत्री के राजनीतिक सलाहकार प्रो विरेन्द्र सिंह, गृह विभाग के अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव समीर भायूर समेत कई गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे।

Rajasthan Patrika, May 20, 2013, P.14

181 पर अब तक सुनी गई दो लाख शिकायतें

नई दिल्ली, (नगर प्रतिनिधि): दिल्ली में संकट में फंसी महिलाओं की सहायता हेतु शुरू की गई टेलीफोन हेल्पलाइन सेवा '181' पर अब तक पिछले चार महीनों में करीब दो लाख कॉलें सुनी गईं और शिकायतकर्ता को उचित सहायता प्रदान की गई। यह जानकारी आज यहां दिल्ली सचिवालय में मुख्यमंत्री शोला दीक्षित को उनके द्वारा हेल्पलाइन सेवा '181' की कार्य-समीक्षा के लिए बुलाई गई बैठक में सम्बंधित अधिकारियों ने दी। इस हेल्पलाइन सेवा को और दुरुस्त किए जाने के लिए बैठक में चर्चा की गई। मुख्यमंत्री शोला दीक्षित ने हेल्पलाइन सेवा को सीधे तौर पर देख रहे विभाग को सख्त हिदायत दी कि इसे ज्यादा से ज्यादा दुरुस्त रखा जाए। महिलाओं से जुड़ी काल पर तुरंत एक्शन लिया जाए और संबंधित विभाग को इस संबंध में सूचना दी जाए। हेल्पलाइन सेवा को और मजबूत व सरल बनाने के लिए 5 डिस्ट्रिक्ट वैन भी विभाग को मुहैया कराने का फैसला किया गया है।

Punjab Kesari, May 17, 2013, P.6
(Women Helpline)

विभिन्न हेल्पलाइन

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दिल्ली सरकार की हेल्पलाइन है। किसी भी परेशानी या इमरजेंसी में महिलाएं इस नंबर पर कॉल कर सकती हैं। 24 घंटे सातों दिन खुली है।

1091
विभिन्न हेल्पलाइन है। अगर कोई महिला किसी भी परेशानी में है या कोई इमरजेंसी है, कोई पौछा कर रहा है या अहलील कॉल कर रहा है, तो इस नंबर पर कॉल की जा सकती है। काउंसलिंग या कोई सलाह लेने के लिए भी इस नंबर पर कॉल कर सकती हैं। यह टोल फ्री नंबर 24 घंटे, सातों दिन खुला है।

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पुलिस कंट्रोल रूम का नंबर। किसी भी तरह की परेशानी में होने पर इस नंबर पर कॉल करें। 24 घंटे सातों दिन खुला है।

26862222, 26864488
ये नंबर संजीवनी संस्था के हैं। किसी भी तरह की भावनात्मक मदद के लिए इन नंबरों पर कॉल कर सकते हैं। यहां प्रे काउंसलिंग की जाती है। ये नंबर सोमवार से शुक्रवार सुबह 10 बजे से 5:30 बजे तक और शनिवार को सुबह 10 से दोपहर 2 बजे तक खुले हैं।



Nav Bharat Times (H), May 26, 2013, P.3
(Women Helpline)

181 पर लंदन से भी आ रही हैं शिकायतें

कम्प्यूजन में सरकार, कैसे करें हेल्प

प्रमुख संवाददाता || नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा मुसोबत में विद्ये महिलाओं की मदद के लिए शुरू की गई हेल्पलाइन 181 पर लंदन में रहने वाली भारतीय महिलाएं भी हेल्प मांग रही हैं। दिल्ली सरकार इस कम्प्यूजन में है कि इनको मदद कैसे करें, क्योंकि यह हेल्पलाइन सिर्फ दिल्ली के लिए है। यह जानकारी गुरवार को मुख्यमंत्री शोला दीक्षित की अगुवाई में हुई 181 की समीक्षा बैठक में अधिकारियों ने दी। शोला दीक्षित ने महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग को निर्देश दिया है कि ऐसी व्यक्ति फोनमदी को अटेंड करके हेल्प की जाती है। 181 हेल्पलाइन पिछले साल 31 दिसंबर को शुरू की गई थी।

महिलाएं कुछ समय के लिए रह सकें। मुख्यमंत्री ने दिल्ली महिला-आयोग को निर्देश दिए हैं कि वह रेप पीडित महिलाओं की मदद के लिए 5 और एंगुलेंस खरोदे। अभी आयोग के पास केवल एक एंगुलेंस है। महिला आयोग की अभी दिल्ली में 48 महिला पंचायतें हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने इनको संख्या भी बढ़ाकर डबल करने के लिए कहा है, ताकि जिन जिलों में कमो दे, वहां इनकी संख्या बढ़ाई जा सके। बैठक में यह भी जानकारी दी गई कि हेल्पलाइन पर हर रोज 1800 के करीब कॉल आती हैं। इनमें से 87 फोनमदी को अटेंड करके हेल्प की जाती है। 181 हेल्पलाइन पिछले साल 31 दिसंबर को शुरू की गई थी।

Nav Bharat Times (H), May 17, 2013, P.9
(Women Helpline)

Asian Age, May 11, 2013, P.3

(Women Helpline)

President asks SC to decide on plea for safer courts

press trust of india

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY: Stating that the recent incidents of child rape in Delhi highlight the "repeated failure" to ensure security of women and children, President Pranab Mukherjee today asked the Supreme Court to give expeditious attention to a plea seeking enforcement of Vishakha judgement to ensure more congenial work environment for women lawyers.

"The recent incidents of brutal assault and child rape in Delhi have shaken our society's collective conscience. They highlight the urgency with which we need to introspect at the erosion of values and our repeated failure to ensure safety and security of our women and children. We must ensure the dignity and respect for women at all times," Mr Mukherjee said.

The President also said that the apex court should give expeditious attention to the PIL of lady lawyers who are seeking "more congenial" and safe atmosphere in courts in pursuance of earlier landmark judgement in the Vishakha case.

"I gather that a group of lady lawyers in the Supreme Court have moved a petition to seek the enforcement of the court's own verdict in the Vishakha case on providing a more congenial workplace environment within the courts for lady lawyers. I am sure the Supreme Court will give expeditious attention to the matter," he said.

The Supreme Court's Vishakha Judgement of 1997 is a landmark in legal guidelines to deal with cases of sexual harassment at workplaces and includes setting up of a committee to inquire into such complaints.

Addressing the National Seminar on Welfare of Lawyers, organised by the Bar Council of Delhi, the President said there was "huge disparities" between the elite and young lawyers and new ones needed to be helped to "find their feet".

"I would like to use this occasion to call upon Judges to take special efforts to encourage young members of the Bar by considering them for local commissions and appointment as 'Amicus Curiae' or 'Friend of the Court' in cases of public importance. I am sure such ini-

DIGNITY AT STAKE

tiatives will boost the confidence and morale of younger members of the legal fraternity," he said.

Supreme Court judge Mr Justice P Sathasivam spoke of the struggle of the young, disabled and women lawyers during initial years of law practice.

Mr Justice Sathasivam said that though there is no legal impediment in enrolment of physically-challenged persons as lawyers, but they face difficulties in pursuing their work as courts in the country lacked facilities.

"I wish, one day all courts (buildings) in India will become disabled friendly," he said.

He also dealt with the challenges faced by women lawyers saying they are not only required to strike a balance between family and the profession, but at time also face abuse at work place.

On the struggle of young lawyers, he said earlier, three years of experience at the bar was needed for allowing them to apply for jobs in the lower judiciary and that had led to a situation where "best talents used to opt out."

The Supreme Court, in one of its judgements, has asked the states to allow even fresh law graduates to apply for such jobs in the judiciary.

Young lawyers, who face difficulties in initial years of the practice, can be appointed local commissioners and receivers, he said.

Mr Ashwani Kumar, Minister for Law and Justice, assured the bar leaders that the government will take a "sympathetic" view of demands to help young lawyers.

On the demand that young lawyers be given Rs. 10,000 per month as stipend, the minister said: "The government has in the past taken several initiatives for the welfare of lawyers. The Government has launched the Rajiv Gandhi advocates training scheme for providing professional training to young lawyers practicing in magisterial courts which will encourage them to stay in the profession. As of now we have decided to give Rs. 2,500 per month as stipend to every trainee advocate for a period of six months from the date he or she starts training under the scheme."

The minister also promised to consider

amending the law to ensure welfare of lawyers.

"We are also considering amendment for ex-gratia facility to lawyers in case of hospitalisation, major surgeries or serious disease and for women and children," he said.

Speaking at the function, Chief Minister Ms Sheila Dikshit said the Delhi Government had earlier paid Rs one crore to advocates' welfare fund and is willing to pay more.

"We started a decade ago by contributing Rs one crore for the welfare fund of the lawyers. However, while standing here today I feel that the time has come when we should review this and increase the amount quite substantially," she said. She also said the government has got constructed a modern multi-level parking lot at the Delhi High Court at the expense of Rs 200 crore.

She said the government was willing to consider providing medical insurance to needy lawyers.

The Delhi High Court Chief Justice, Mr D Murugesan, said the Bar Council of Delhi has a role in solving the problems faced by young and women lawyers.

Statesman, May 5, 2013, P.4

(Safety-Women Lawyers)

3.6 Women -other issues (Shelters for Girls/One-Stop Crisis Centre/ Women Voters/ Initiatives- Women/ ISBA Women's Forum Resolution/Location Tracking-LBS/ Minority Women/Register- Sexual Offenders)

Shelters for girls who face abuse at home

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi government will open exclusive shelters for girls who face sexual assault by their family members.

The move comes as majority of victims of sexual assault do not register complaints fearing reprisals from family members. Police statistics have shown that as much as 50 per cent of the sexual crimes against women are perpetrated by those known to them.

The move underlines an almost exponential rise in the number of cases of rape

and molestation in the Capital. Though there are 15 open shelters for homeless boys, there is none to cater exclusively to girls.

According to the officials, girls will not only be provided safe shelter but also food at the 'open shelters'.

The department of women and child development had surveyed a number of areas. Those highly vulnerable for minors have been selected as the prospective sites.

These include east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, Seemapuri, Seelampur, Farsh Bazar, Khajuri Khas among others.

"To begin with, 10 open

shelters will be made functional but the number can go up depending on the requirement," said a senior Delhi government official.

The department has written to a number of NGOs, working for the welfare of children, asking them to manage these shelters.

While night shelters for adults are functional in the city, girls prefer to stay away from these shelters fearing physical abuse.

There are a total of 150 night shelters in the city that can accommodate at least 14,000 people. These night shelters remain operational throughout

the year.

"So far, we have set up 15 open shelters where boys below the age of 18 are accommodated throughout the day. But girls are not allowed in these shelters and we fear that in the absence of such safe places, they seek shelters on footpaths and other such places. This makes them further vulnerable to abuse. A proposal was made to create a shelter only for girls and it has finally been cleared," said a senior government official.

According to the officials, volunteers will soon be assigned who will inform girls about the open shelters.

Hindustan Times, May 22, 2013, P.2 (Shelters for Girls)

A new facility for women victims

Staff Reporter

GURGAON: Soon a "One-Stop Crisis Centre" (OSCC) will be opened in Gurgaon and Faridabad each to provide legal aid, police services and counselling to women victims under one roof.

The centres will be set up at Badshah Khan Hospital, Faridabad, and General Hospital, Gurgaon, and would remain open round-the-clock with doctors and police personnel

being present 24 hours. Senior Gynaecologist Pronita Ahlawat would be the coordinator for OSCC, Faridabad, and Senior Medical Officer Sunita Sharma for Gurgaon.

Women and Child Development Department Director-General Sumita Misra said OSCC is a comprehensive service which not only provided medical facility but also other support services such as legal aid, police services and counselling under one roof to the

victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. About Rs.35 lakh will be spent to set up each OSCC.

The centre will be headed by a coordinator, who will be a senior doctor of the hospital where OSCC is located. Besides the coordinator, there would be a team of around eight to 10 people comprising a counsellor, a police officer, a lawyer, two on-duty doctors and support staff like nurses, helpers, sweepers.

Hindu, May 31, 2013, P. 11 (One-Stop Crisis Centre)

दक्षिणी दिल्ली में सबसे कम संख्या में हैं महिला वोटर

मताधिकार के मामले में पिछड़ रही हैं महिलाएं

बृजेश सिंह

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की कमान एक महिला के हाथ में है। महिलाएं संसद में एक तिहाई आरक्षण चाहती हैं। इसके बावजूद देश की राजधानी में ही महिलाएं मताधिकार में बराबर की हिस्सेदारी से कोसों दूर हैं। इसकी एक वजह ये भी है कि कुछ पुरुष नहीं चाहते कि महिलाओं के पास कोई पहचान पत्र हो जिससे वह अपने अधिकारों का दावा कर सकें।

दिल्ली मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी कार्यालय ने राजधानी में महिला मतदाताओं की कम संख्या को देखते हुए अलग-अलग विधानसभा में सर्वे किया। सर्वे उन पोलिंग स्टेशन के इलाकों में किया गया, जहां महिला वोटर्स की संख्या 700 से कम थी। इसमें जो तथ्य सामने आए उसके मुताबिक सबसे कम महिला वोटर 42.13 फीसदी सबसे पॉश दक्षिणी जिले

- सर्वे में हुआ खुलासा, पुरुष नहीं चाहते कि घर की महिला बने मतदाता
- पहचान पत्र केंद्रों की दूरी और पुरुष कर्मचारियों से भी है परेशानी

क्यों कम हैं महिला वोटर

मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी कार्यालय के मुताबिक सर्वे में महिलाओं के वोटर नहीं बन पाने की तीन प्रमुख वजहें सामने आईं। कुछ पुरुष अपने घर की महिलाओं का मतदाता पहचान पत्र इसलिए नहीं बनाते क्योंकि उन्हें डर है कि उन्हें प्रॉपर्टी में हिस्सा देना पड़ेगा। साथ ही, घर से मतदाता पहचान पत्र बनाने वाले केंद्र की दूरी भी महिलाओं के वोटर बनने की राह में रोड़ा बन रहा है। कुछ महिलाओं ने मतदाता पहचान पत्र बनाने वाले पुरुष कर्मचारियों से संकोच को भी बड़ी वजह बताया।

नई दिल्ली में आता है। जनगणना के मुताबिक दिल्ली में प्रति हजार पुरुष पर 866 महिलाएं हैं, मगर महिलाओं की बात करें तो यह संख्या 797 से है।

दिल्ली में महिला वोटर्स की संख्या पुरुषों की तुलना में कम है। यह समस्या एक खास वर्ग वाले इलाकों में सबसे ज्यादा है। इसकी वजह ज्ञान के लिए सर्वे करवाया गया था, उसमें जो तथ्य आए वह बेहद चौकाने वाले थे रोचक हैं। मगर उन समस्याओं को दूर किया जाएगा। महिला वोटर बनाने के लिए महिला कमिटी की टीम बनाई गई है।

-विजय देव, मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी दिल्ली

फैक्ट फाइल

जिलेवार महिला मतदाता

जिला	वोटर (%)
दक्षिणी जिला	42.13
पूर्वी जिला	45.05
नई दिल्ली	44.22
उत्तरी-पश्चिमी	44.44
पश्चिमी जिला	45.62
दक्षिणी-पश्चिमी	44.79
उत्तरी-पूर्वी	44.86
उत्तरी जिला	44.87
मध्य जिला	44.99

सबसे कम महिला मतदाता वाले विधानसभा क्षेत्र

क्षेत्र	वोटर (लाख)	महिला (%)
तुगलकाबाद	1.26	39.05
ओखला	1.15	40.06
संगम विहार	1.37	40.13
छतरपुर	1.64	41.06
बदरपुर	1.98	41.32

Amar Ujala, May 12, 2013, P.6 (Women Voters)

महिला सशक्तीकरण में भूमिका निभा रही गांधी नगर मार्केट

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : महिलाओं को आत्म निर्भर बनाने के लिए जहां एक ओर सरकार कई योजनाएं चला रही है वहीं, समाज के कुछ लोग भी इस ओर हरसंभव कदम उठा रहे हैं। महिला सशक्तीकरण में कुछ ऐसी ही भूमिका गांधी नगर मार्केट भी निभा रही है। बशक यहां कारोबार की बागडोर पुरुष वर्ग ने संभाल रखी है, लेकिन यहां के अधिकतर कुटीर व लघु उद्योगों में फिनिशिंग से लेकर पैकेजिंग तक की जिम्मेदारी महिलाओं ने संभाल रखी है।

मूल रूप से कपड़ों के व्यवसाय के लिए मशहूर गांधी नगर मार्केट के कारोबारियों का कहना है कि यहां से ठेकेदार कच्चा माल लेकर उसे नंद नगरी, दिल्लीपुरा, सोलमपुर, जाफराबाद, गौतम विहार, न्यू उस्मानपुर, शास्त्री पार्क आदि क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं द्वारा तैयार करते हैं। ठेकेदार उपरोक्त क्षेत्रों में जरूरतमंद महिलाओं से प्रति पीस के हिसाब से कपड़े आदि तैयार कराते हैं। इस तरह महिलाओं को घर बैठे रोजगार मिलने के साथ ही तैयार माल लाने और लेजाने की भी समस्या से निजात मिलती है। ऐसा कर एक महिला हर महीने तीन से चार हजार रुपये आसानी से कमा लेती है।

महिला कामगारों को तवज्जो

एसोसिएशन ऑफ होलसेल रेडिमेड गारमेंट्स डीलर्स के अध्यक्ष कंचल कुमार बल्ली कहते हैं मार्केट के ठेकेदार आमतौर पर महिला कामगारों को ही तवज्जो देते हैं। ऐसा इसलिए कि महिला कामगारों ने इस ओर रुचि दिखाई है और बड़ा ऑर्डर होने पर वे पुरुषों के मुकाबले आसानी से अधिक संख्या में उपलब्ध होती हैं। वहीं, ठेकेदारों से इतर इन कॉलोनीयों में रहने वाली कुछ महिलाएं सीधे तौर पर मार्केट से जुड़ी हुई हैं। ये महिलाएं ठेकेदारों की

- गांधी नगर के ज्यादातर कुटीर उद्योगों में महिलाएं हैं कार्यरत
- बेरोजगार व अनपढ़ महिलाओं को मिल रहा है रोजगार, कच्चा माल घर ले जाकर भी करती हैं काम

बजाय सीधे व्यापारियों से कपड़े लेती हैं और उन्हें घर में तैयार कर वापस कर देती हैं। आम तौर पर ऐसी महिला कामगारों को उनके परिवार वालों का भी साथ मिलता है। जाहिर है ऐसा करने से उन्हें ज्यादा लाभ भी मिलता है। वे बताते हैं कि महिलाएं गांधी नगर के साथ ही जाफराबाद, वैलकम, सोलमपुर आदि से भी थोक कपड़े लेकर माल तैयार करती हैं। महिला मोर्चा (भाजपा) की राष्ट्रीय मंत्री रेखा गुप्ता का कहना है कि गांधी नगर कपड़ा मार्केट द्वारा बेरोजगार महिलाओं को जिस तरह से रोजगार दिया जा रहा है। यह सराहनीय कदम है। मार्केट को इन महिलाओं को ट्रेनिंग देकर और कुशल बनाना चाहिए ताकि यह परिवार को आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने में सहायक हो सके। इतना ही नहीं इन संपर्शील महिलाओं को सरकार की तरफ से भी सस्ती दरों पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराना चाहिए ताकि वे खुद अपना रोजगार खोल सके।

दस वर्षों से गांधी नगर से लाते हैं माल गांधी नगर कपड़ा मार्केट से पिछले 10 सालों जुड़ी रघुवरपुर निवासी हरविन्द कौर का कहना है कि सीजन के दौरान वह आठ से दस हजार रुपये महीना कमा लेती हैं। वह बताती हैं कि वे गोदाम से लाट में माल लेकर आती हैं। ज्यादा ऑर्डर मिलने पर हम अपने पड़ोस की बेरोजगार महिलाओं में भी काम बांट देते हैं। इस तरह वे भी घर बैठे तीन से चार हजार रुपये कमा लेती हैं।

Dainik Jagran (H), May 22, 2013, P.1
(Initiative-Gandhi Nagar Market)

महिलाओं को मिलेगा रिजर्व बर्थ का तोहफा

राजदीप जाखड़

मेरठ। विकलांग, गर्भवती और 45 साल से ज्यादा उम्र की महिलाओं को रेलवे स्लीपर से लेकर एसी क्लास तक में रिजर्व बर्थ का तोहफा देने जा रहा है। इन महिलाओं के लिए



विकलांग, गर्भवती और 45 साल से ज्यादा उम्र की महिलाओं को लाभ स्लीपर, एसी-2 और एसी-3 टियर में प्रत्येक कोच में दो लोअर सीटें होंगी रिजर्व

रू ली प र , एसी-2 टियर और एसी-3 टियर के हर कोच में दो लोअर सीट रिजर्व कर दी जाएगी। इसके साथ ही विकलांग महिलाओं के लिए एसएलआर/डी (स्लीपर लेगेज रैक/डिसेबल) कोच के गेट बदलकर इन्हें उनकी व्हीलचेयर घुसने लायक बनाया जाएगा।

उत्तर रेलवे के सीपीआरओ एस नेगी ने बताया कि विकलांग, गर्भवती और 45 साल से ज्यादा उम्र की महिलाओं के लिए ट्रेनों में अभी तक कोई विशेष व्यवस्था नहीं है। इसके चलते इन्हें सफर में भारी

परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है। इसे देखते हुए रेलवे राजधानी, शताब्दी, जनशताब्दी, दुरंतों और गरीब रथ आदि ट्रेनों में महिलाओं के लिए जल्द ही विशेष सेवा शुरू

ये होंगे एसएलआर कोच में बदलाव

- एसएलआर/डी कोच के गेट बदलकर व्हील चेयर घुसने लायक बनाए जाएंगे।
- सोडीफाइड टायलेट और उसके साथ चार बर्थ अटैच होंगी। इससे निचली दो विकलांग महिलाओं के लिए और ऊपर की दो उसके साथ चलने वाले अटैचेंट के लिए होंगी।

करने जा रही है। विकलांग, गर्भवती और 45 साल या इससे अधिक उम्र की महिलाओं के लिए स्लीपर, एसी-2 टियर और एसी-3 टियर के हर कोच में दो लोअर सीट रिजर्व कर दी जाएगी। रिजर्वेशन कराने के लिए जरूरतमंद महिला को फार्म में कोटे का आधार लिखना होगा। यदि किसी कारण से महिला रिजर्वेशन नहीं करा पाती है तो सीट खाली रहने पर एसएलआर कोच के एक हिस्से को गर्भवती या 45 से अधिक उम्र की महिलाओं के लिए तैयार किया जाएगा।

Amar Ujala, May 25, 2013, P.11
(Initiative-Railway)

Reports on status of NE women's rights submitted

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 30 - Various organizations of the State working in the field of women's issues have submitted their reports on status of women's rights to United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences (UNSRVAV) Rashida Manjoo, who is on a visit to India.

The UN Special Rapporteur also visited the North East region on Sunday and met many of the civil society organisations.

The North East Network, working in the field of women's rights made a submission on multiple vulnerabilities of

women to violence in the conflict affected areas of Assam.

NEN Chairperson Dr Monisha Behal made the submission to the Special Rapporteur on gendered dimension of violations and needs assessment of women in disturbed areas presently under AFSPA, recognition of women's contribution to peace to mitigate violence against women etc. Women in Governance, Assam also made a presentation in front of the UN representative.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur's report would be tabled on the coming session of United Nations Commission on Human Rights, to be held at Geneva in June.

Assam Tribune, May 1, 2013, P.5
(North East Women's Right)

Krishna Tirath signs IBSA resolution to empower women

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath signed the Fifth India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Resolution on Thursday. The joint resolution between the three countries will look at recognising the key role of governments with the support of civil society in ensuring and accelerating efforts towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.

Speaking at the signing event, the Minister said: "The resolution signed at the end of the three-day meet shows our commitment to work for women's empowerment and for fighting gender-based discrimination and violence against women in all forms."

Stating that ending violence against women must be the goal for a more equitable society, the Minister said: "The 'Stop Rape Campaign' of South Africa is particularly appreciable for its intrinsic value in gender sensitising school children. Also, the social programmes, such as Bolsa Familia of Brazil, have popularised the model for effective delivery of financial



ALL SMILES: (From left) Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities of South Africa Lulama Xingwana, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath and Brazilian Secretary of Evaluation of Policies and Economic Autonomy of Women Tatau Godinho after signing the IBSA Women's Forum Resolution in New Delhi on Thursday.

- PHOTO: MONICA TIWARI

benefits to poor families."

"The Indian Government too has recently passed the legislation to prevent women from sexual harassment at workplace, which indicates the seriousness of these issues where

women feel insecure at their workplaces. This legislation will go a long way to ensuring the full participation of women in the economy and nation building exercises which are so important," she added. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister

from South Africa Lulu Xingwana stated that the platform of the IBSA is for enhanced efforts for continuously engendering the policies and programmes of the three countries and for mainstreaming the marginalised sections.

ter from South Arica Lulu Xingwana stated that the platform of the IBSA is for enhanced efforts for continuously engendering the policies and programmes of the three countries and for mainstreaming the marginalised sections.

Hindu, May 17, 2013, P. 4

(ISBA Women's Forum Resolution)

NMC plans toilet blocks for women

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aimed at enhancing sanitation, particularly for women, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation will be constructing 'only women' toilet blocks. These facilities will be started in each its 104 wards.

With elections round the corner, the civic body has decided to expedite work, fearing the Model Code of Conduct will be in place soon.

The toilet blocks are planned in marketplaces, some unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters that miserably lack in sanitary services.

In the first phase, 48 locations have been identified. Several other locations are also being identified by the department of environment management services (DEMS) of North Delhi Corporation.

"A survey has been conducted by the department across all the six administrative zones. A total of 48 locations have been identified as of now where women toilet blocks can be constructed. The details of the locations have been sent to the engineering department. They have been directed to initiate the process and complete the projects in a time-bound manner," said VP Pandey, Chairman of DEMS Committee in the Corporation.

Pandey held a meeting of DEMS department earlier this month and reviewed the sanitation related works in the limits of the corporation.

The officials said decision of constructing Mahila toilets has been taken in view of security of women as well.

Several cases of molestation are reported from slums and JJ clusters as still several women are forced to defecate in open due to lack of toilets in their homes, an official said.

Officials have been directed to initiate tendering process at the earliest.

Pioneer, May 24, 2013, P.6

(Initiative-NMC)

Tirath for location track on cellphones

Moushumi Das Gupta
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NEW DELHI: With crime against women on the rise, the Women & Child Development (WCD) ministry has demanded that mobile operators immediately set up Location Based Services (LBS) in mobile phones which will help track women in distress.

In May 2011, the Department of Telecommunications had made it mandatory for mobile operators across India to set up LBS with location accuracy of 50 meters but the latter are yet to comply.

LBS can go a long way in helping law enforcement agencies to check crime by providing real time information about the location of a mobile user. Also, the application does not require any additional features such as internet, wi-fi or GPS and can work with basic handsets.

WCD minister Krishna Tirath on Monday shot off a letter to telecom minister Kapil Sibal asking him to crack the whip on mobile operators to



- Krishna Tirath

implement LBS immediately. "Such a service can help track the location of women in danger ... Unfortunately, the telecom operators are yet to implement the system... I would request you to kindly look into its implementation," Tirath's letter states.

But mobile operators are not in a mood to implement the directive anytime soon. "The cost to implement the LBS based on the accuracy standards fixed by DoT is simply not feasible. We are willing to set it up if the government bears the cost," Rajan S Mathews, DG, Cellular Operators Association of India, told HT.

NCW convenes seminar with RPF on women's security

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY: Concerned over an increase in number of rape cases and molestation against women, a special study expert committee on rape, a wing of National Commission for Women (NCW) convened a joint consultative seminar and gender sensitisation initiative in association with Railway Protection Force (RPF), Northern Railway on Thursday.

Chaired by Mrs Mamta Sharma, chairperson of NCW, the seminar was attended by other members of NCW, Northern Railway. At present the representation of women in RPF is about 1.7 per cent and according to RPF, efforts are on the way to increase the strength of women in RPF to 10 per cent in the coming decade.

Mrs Sharma emphasised the need of sensitisation of law enforcing agencies to protect and safeguard the modesty of women traveling or working in railways. She also expressed that RPF should be more vigilant and do more to prevent and detect trafficking of women since railway is frequently used as a mode of transport for trafficking of women and children.

Statesman, May 5, 2013, P.3

Hindustan Times, May 14, 2013, P.11

(Location Tracking-LBS)

कागजों में ही सिमटी रही अल्पसंख्यक महिलाओं से जुड़ी योजना

नई दिल्ली, 22 मई (भाषा)। अल्पसंख्यक महिलाओं को समाज की मुख्यधारा से जोड़ने और उनमें नेतृत्व क्षमता के विकास की सरकार की योजना कागजों पर ही सिमटी दिखाई दे रही है। यह योजना फिसले के करीब तीन साल बाद शुरू की गई और क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर इसका क्रियान्वयन अभी तक शुरू नहीं किया जा सका है। अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय ने 'अल्पसंख्यक महिलाओं में नेतृत्व क्षमता के विकास' की योजना 2009-10 में शुरू की थी।

सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआइ) से मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक, इस योजना का कार्यान्वयन 2012-13 में शुरू किया जा सका। क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर इस कार्यक्रम का क्रियान्वयन अभी शुरू किया जाना है। मुरादाबाद के आरटीआइ कार्यकर्ता सलीम बेग ने सरकार से अल्पसंख्यक महिलाओं में नेतृत्व क्षमता के

विकास से जुड़ी योजना के कार्यान्वयन की जानकारी मांगी थी। अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय ने बताया-इस योजना का उद्देश्य सभी स्तरों पर सरकारी तंत्रों, बैंकों और अन्य संस्थाओं के साथ विचारों के आदान-प्रदान के लिए जानकारी, साधन और सुविधाएं मुहैया कराकर अल्पसंख्यक महिलाओं सहित उनके गांव व मुहल्लों में रहने वाले पड़ोसियों को सशक्त बनाना और भरोसा जगाना है।

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय ने बताया-इस योजना का कार्यान्वयन 2012-13 में शुरू किया गया है। 2012-13 के दौरान इस योजना के तहत वास्तविक लक्ष्य में परियोजना प्रस्ताव के अधिकतम 25 फीसद गैर अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय की महिलाओं के साथ अधिसूचित अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय की 40 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षित किया जाना शामिल है। सूचना के अधिकार के

तहत मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक, मंत्रालय ने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए संगठनों के चयन, लक्ष्यों के आबंटन और प्रशिक्षण मापदंडों के अनुरूप कार्रवाई शुरू की है।

महिला व बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने 2007-08 में अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय की महिलाओं में नेतृत्व क्षमता के विकास, आजीविका व सशक्तीकरण के उद्देश्य से इस आशय की योजना शुरू की थी। 2009-10 में यह योजना अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के अधीन चली गई। अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय ने राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग अधिनियम 1992 की धारा 2 (सी) के तहत मुसलमानों, सिख, इसाई, बौद्ध और पारसी समुदाय को अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के रूप में अधिसूचित किया है। इस योजना का लाभ इन्हीं समुदाय की पात्र महिलाएं उठा सकती हैं।

Jansatta (H), May 23, 2013, P.5

(Minority Women)

Making women self-reliant through handicrafts

Madhur Tankha

NEW DELHI: Since 2008, Act Now for Harmony and Democracy (ANHAD) has been working with rural women in the impoverished areas of Bihar to make them self-reliant and conscious of their rights.

And now the socio-cultural organisation is giving these women an opportunity to become a part of the national mainstream by organising an event at the Constitution Club here on June 5.

According to ANHAD founder Shabnam Hashmi, the organisation has been working diligently for the past five years to make the women stand on their own feet and become aware of their rights.

"We have introduced literacy programmes, intervened in local issues and formed pressure groups in order to ensure that government schemes are implemented. We need to un-

derstand that these are extremely poor areas where 70 per cent of the men have migrated to different parts of the country to earn their livelihood. Average income is Rs.7,000 to Rs.8,000 for a family of ten. Literacy level for women is under 25 per cent. So we have engaged them in producing jute bags and want these activities to become self-sustainable," she said.

ANHAD has been training hundreds of women in weaving mats, durries and making aesthetically appealing jute products in Araria and Purnia districts of Bihar.

To bring in professionalism and ensure more women are introduced in income-generating activities, Ms. Hashmi has roped in the services of a group of young film-makers, Progressive Films, and an Internet marketing company, Reprise Media. Initially, ANHAD started with providing

relief to flood victims. But the relationship with the local community has grown exponentially.

Sahir Raza who has worked with ANHAD intermittently said the basic purpose behind the whole exercise is to enable the women to secure a market for their products in urban centres.

Designer Saumya Nagar who supervised the work of women in Purnia district of Bihar said a large collection of bags, cushions and lifestyle products will be launched and marketed.

For this National Institute of Fashion Technology alumna, travelling to rural areas of the State was an interesting learning experience. She got a close look at the hardship faced by rural women on a daily basis. The products have also been produced by women of Nizamuddin Basti in Delhi and Uri in Kashmir.

Hindu, May 30, 2013, P. 2

Delhi Police to keep a record of sexual offenders

Faizan Haider

NEW DELHI: Harassing a girl will make it difficult for you to get any kind of police verification. For the first time, the Delhi police have started maintaining a register of sexual offenders. Police stations have been asked to write details of accused of rape, molestation, stalking and even of harassment in the register and keep a track of them.

Till now only data of criminals involved in heinous crime such as robbery, murder and dacoity was maintained. In 2012, out of over 700 rape cases, accused in eight were repeated sexual offenders.

Delhi Police officials said they had no mechanism to keep a track of repeat sexual offenders and after the December 16 gang-rape, decision to keep a record of such accused was taken.

"We have started to maintain police stations wise detail of accused who were involved in rape, sodomy, molestation or eve teasing. This helps in investigation whenever a case was reported. This will also deter public in general," said Ajay Chaudhry, additional CP (southeast). In southeast Delhi till now data of nearly 300 sexual offenders has been prepared. The register will have the name, address, photo, details of family members of the accused.

Hindustan Times, May 25, 2013, P.2

(Register-Sexual Offenders)

4. Demography and Vital Statistics

4.1 Census Data/ Evaluation/Survey Reports (Census Report-Uttar Pradesh/ Population-India/ SCs ,STs/Survey Report-Annual Health Survey/ Police Survey/ Report-UNICEF/ NCERT/Study Report- Rising Youth Intolerance /ASSOCHAM)

UP child population falls

statesman news service

LUCKNOW, 29 MAY: Uttar Pradesh has recorded a decline in its child population by 2.6 per cent in the last decade. There has also been a fall in the child sex ratio (zero to six years girls per thousands boys) during the same decade.

These findings were revealed by the Joint Director of the Census Directorate Pradeep Kumar today. Releasing the final population of Uttar Pradesh at 19,98,12,431 or around 20 crores as on 1 March 2011, as against the earlier provisional population total of 19,95,81,477, he said the difference between the two is to the effect of 0.12 per cent. Speaking about the decadent growth rate of the population in the state he said it was 2.5 per cent higher than the national average in 2001-11. While maintaining that his department's brief was not to analyse the causes which has led to the decline in the child population, Mr Kumar said as per the 2011 census, the child population in the age group of 0-6 years stood at 3,07,91,331. Of these 2,50,40,583 were in the rural areas and 57,50,748 in the urban areas. He added, compared to the census 2001, the child population had declined by 8,33,297 or 2.6 per cent in UP. The decline was to the tune of 4.6 per cent in the rural areas though the urban areas registered an increase of 7.2 per cent.

While the child population has registered a fall, what has come out as a disturbing trend and which is also a reflection on the societal attitude and norms is the decline in the child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years. The census figures register a minus 14 points decline. Against the total of 916 in 2001, it has now come down to 902. In the rural sector the figures during the same period stood at 921 and 906 registering a significant fall, while in the urban sector it stood at 890 and 885. Amongst the districts of the state, Balrampur (950) has recorded the highest and Baghpat (841) the lowest child sex ratio. In the rural areas, it is once again Balrampur (951) which has recorded the highest and Gautam Buddha Nagar (826) which has recorded the lowest sex ratio. In the urban areas, it is Mau (954) which has recorded the highest and Ghaziabad and Meerut (848) which have recorded the lowest sex ratio.

DISQUIETING FIGURES

Interestingly, the sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) has shown an improvement from the 898 of 2001 to 912 of 2011. Three districts of eastern UP (Purvanchal) have taken the lead on the count. They are Jaunpur, Azamgarh and Deoria which have recorded a sex ratio of 1024, 1019 and 1,017 respectively. The rural areas of 11 districts have registered a fall in the sex ratio.

Referring to the major findings of the SC/ST population the joint director said there has been an increase. The district recording the highest SC population is by Sitapur. The lowest is in Baghpat. In literacy, the census findings showed that the highest number of rural literates are in the Allahabad district while Kanpur Nagar has recorded the highest number of literates in the urban areas.

Statesman, May 30, 2013, P.4
(Census Report-Uttar Pradesh)

SCs, STs form 25% of population, says Census 2011 data

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

limitation till the first census after 2026.

The highest SC population, 31.9 per cent of the state's total number, is in Punjab. Lakshadweep has the highest proportion of STs at 94.8 per cent.

Besides the SC/ST figures, the Census data pegs the work participation rate at 39.8 per cent. More than 60 per cent of the population does not participate in any economic activity. The figures may seem alarming but then students and homemakers have been categorised as 'non-workers', along with dependents, pensioners and beggars.

At 51.9 per cent, Himachal Pradesh has the highest work participation rate and Delhi, at 33.3 per cent, is among the states with lowest rates. Cultivators and agricultural labourers (54.6 per cent) form over half the working population.

THE government Tuesday released the first set of final data from the population enumeration (Census 2011) held in February 2011. Also called the Primary Census Abstract, it pegs the population of Scheduled Castes at 16.6 per cent and Scheduled Tribes at 8.6 per cent, together forming a quarter of the total population. The data comes out at a time when political parties are busy drawing up gameplan for the 2014 general elections.

In the period 2001-11, the SCs grew by 20.8 per cent and STs by 23.7 per cent. The data shows the total population has witnessed a decadal increase of 17.7 per cent to touch 1.21 billion. But this Census data will not have an effect on the demarcation of parliamentary constituencies because as per the 2002 amendment to Constitution there will be no de-

New Indian Express, May 1, 2013, P.2
(Census-Population of SCs ,STs)

Decline in child sex ratio in U.P., says Census report

Special Correspondent

LUCKNOW: Notwithstanding several measures taken by the Government to secure the future of children, particularly the girl child, there has been a decline in the child population in Uttar Pradesh. More importantly, there has been a considerable fall in the child sex ratio over the past decade, according to the final figures of Census 2011 for Uttar Pradesh released here on Wednesday.

Releasing the figures, Joint Director of Census Directorate Pradeep Kumar said the final total population of the State stood at 199.81 million or about 20 crore. The provisional population total on April 4, 2011, was 19.95 crore, Mr. Kumar said.

Even though no authoritative analysis has yet been done on the reasons for the fall in the State's child population as well as the declining child sex ratio, a significant trend which has emerged from the final Census figures is that compared to Census 2001, the child population in the State has declined by 8.33 lakh, or a decline of 2.8 percentage points.

According to the 2011 Census, the child population in the age group of 0 to 6 years was 3.07 crore, comprising 2.50 crore in the rural areas and 57.50 lakh in the urban. However, while the child population declined in the rural areas by 4.6 per cent, it increased in urban areas by 7.2 per cent.

In fact, the decline in U.P.'s child population in proportion to the total population has been more marked in the rural areas.

In contrast, it has increased in the urban areas with migration from rural to urban areas cited as a possible reason for the increase.

But, it is the decline in the child sex ratio which points to a more disturbing trend. As per the Census figures, the decline has been from 916 to 902 (minus 14 points) during 2001 to 2011. In rural areas the fall has been more marked from 921 in 2001 to 906 in 2011, a fall by 15 points, whereas in the urban areas the decline has been less dramatic - 890 to 885 over the last decade. While Balrampur in central Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest child sex ratio of 950 girls per thousand boys, Baghpat in western U.P. recorded the lowest (841) among the districts of the State.

In contrast to the decline in child population and child sex ratio, the sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) has improved from 898 in 2001 to 912 in 2011 with Jaunpur, Azamgarh and Deoria districts in eastern U.P. (Purvanchal) recording a sex ratio of 1024, 1019 and 1017 respectively. Eleven districts have shown a fall in sex ratio in rural areas.

Among the other notable findings has been the reiteration of U.P.'s status as pre-eminently an agrarian State with more than three-fourth (155.3 million, or about 77 per cent) of the total population living in the rural areas. Compared to this, 44.5 million people or 22.23 per cent live in the urban areas.

Population in Uttar Pradesh grew by 20.2 per cent during 2001-2011 against 25.8 per cent during 1991-2001. Gautam Buddha Nagar district (Noida) recorded the highest decadal growth in population (49.11 per cent).

According to the Census, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in the State has increased; literacy rate has gone up with the highest number of rural literates in Allahabad district and urban literates in Kanpur district.

- Total population of the State stood at 199.81 million or about 20 crore
- More than three-fourth of the total population living in rural areas

Hindu, May 30, 2013, P. 7
(Census Report-Uttar Pradesh)

It's official! India is 1.21 billion strong

Fair sex outshines male counterpart in literacy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is now officially a 1.21 billion-strong nation registering a 17.7 per cent increase in its population over the last decade. But amid the worries of a burgeoning population what is heartening is that not only has the growth in number of females (90.99 million) been more than males (90.97 million) but in terms of literacy too the fair sex has outshone their male counterparts -- 10.9 per cent as against 5.6 per cent.

According to the preliminary data of Census 2011, released by Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde on Tuesday, India's total population as on March 1, 2011 was 1,210,726,932 or 1.21 billion -- an increase of 181.96 million people in absolute number of population during 2001-11.

The sex ratio of the population in the country in 2011 stands at 943 female against 1,000 males, which is 10 per thousand more than the last Census when the number of females per thousand males stood at 933. Nevertheless, Haryana (879), Jammu and Kashmir (889), Punjab (895), Bihar (918) and Uttar Pradesh (912) continue to present a grim scenario with a skewed sex ratio.

Though India's urban population has increased by 31.2 per cent in the last 60 years, more than two-third of the country's populace (833.5 million) still reside in rural areas. Highest proportion of urban population is in NCT Delhi (97.5 per cent) followed by Goa (62.2 per cent), Mizoram (52.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu (48.4 per cent), Kerala (47.7 per cent) and Maharashtra (45.2 per cent)

The growth rate of females was 18.3 per cent, higher than the males at 17.1 per cent.

Compared to the 2001 Census, the latest data suggests family planning policy has worked. While this time the growth of population was 17.7 per cent, in 2001 recorded 21.5 per cent growth when compared with 1991 census.

Among the major states, highest growth in population has been recorded in Bihar (25.4 per cent) while 14 states and Union Territories have recorded population growth above 20 per cent. Five top performing States in terms of sex ratio were Kerala (1,084 females), Tamil Nadu (996), Andhra Pradesh (993), Chhattisgarh (991), Odisha (979).

Child population in the age of 0 to 6 years has seen an increase of 0.4 per cent to 164.5 million in 2011 from 163.8 mil-

lion in 2001. The child population (0-6) is almost stationary. In 17 states and UTs, the child population has declined in 2011 compared to 2001.

With the declaration of sex ratio in the age group 0-6, the Census authorities tried to bring out the recent changes in the society in its attitude and outlook towards the girl child.

Literacy rate in India in 2011 has increased by 8 per cent to 73 per cent in comparison to 64.8 per cent in 2001. While male literacy rate stands at 80.9 per cent -- which is 5.6 per cent more than the previous census, the female literacy rate stands at 64.6 per cent -- an increase of 10.9 per cent than 2001.

The highest increase took place in Dadra and Nagar Haveli by 18.6 points (from 57.6 per cent to 76.2 per cent), Bihar by 14.8 points (from 47.0 per cent to 61.8 per cent),

Tripura by 14.0 points (from 73.2 per cent to 87.2 per cent). Improvement in female lit-

BURGEONING POPULATION

- The sex ratio of the population in the country in 2011 stands at 943 female against 1,000 males which is 10 more than the last Census
- The latest data suggests family planning policy has worked. While this time the growth of population was 17.7 per cent, 2001 recorded 21.5 per cent growth
- Highest urban population is in NCT Delhi (97.5 per cent) followed by Goa (62.2 per cent), Mizoram (52.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu (48.4 per cent), Kerala (47.7 per cent) and Maharashtra (45.2 per cent)
- Highest growth in population has been recorded in Bihar (25.4 per cent)
- Five top performing States in terms of sex ratio were Kerala (1,084 females), Tamil Nadu (996), Andhra Pradesh (993), Chhattisgarh (991), Odisha (979)
- Child population between 0 to 6 years has seen an increase of 0.4 per cent to 164.5 million in 2011 from 163.8 million in 2001
- Top five States and UTs, where literacy rate is the highest, are Kerala (94 per cent), Lakshadweep (91.8 per cent), Mizoram (91.3 per cent), Goa (88.7 per cent) and Tripura (87.2). The bottom five States and UTs are Bihar (61.8 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (65.4 per cent), Rajasthan (66.1 per cent), Jharkhand (66.4 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (67 per cent)

eracy is higher than males in all states and UTs, except Mizoram (where it is same in both males and females) during 2001-11. The gap between literacy rate in urban and rural areas is steadily declining in every census. Gender gap in literacy rate is steadily declining in every census. In Census 2011, the gap stands at 16.3 points.

Top five States and UTs, where literacy rate is the highest, are Kerala (94 per cent), Lakshadweep (91.8 per cent), Mizoram (91.3 per cent), Goa (88.7 per cent) and Tripura (87.2). The bottom five States and UTs are Bihar (61.8 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (65.4 per cent), Rajasthan (66.1 per cent), Jharkhand (66.4 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (67 per cent).

Pioneer, May 1, 2013, P.5
(Population-India)

Working women: Delhi has lowest % in top cities

Rukmini Shrinivasan | TIG

New Delhi: Delhi has the lowest proportion of working women in any major Indian city, analysis of newly released Census data confirms. Kolkata and Mumbai have nearly double the proportion of working women as the capital, and southern cities including Coimbatore and Bengaluru are at the highest end of the spectrum.

Data released by the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India two weeks ago confirms a trend that the National Sample Survey Organisation first flagged in 2010 — female participation in India's workforce is falling.

While the fall in the female workforce as measured by the Census is small — just 0.1 percentage points from 25.6% of all women in 2001 to 25.5% in 2011 — this includes even a woman who worked for just one day of the preceding year as a worker. In contrast, the fall in female labour force participation as measured by the NSSO — which looks at how the person spent the majority of the preceding year — was much sharper, nearly 10% between 2005 and 2010.

As with the NSSO data, the new Census data shows that while rural women participate in the workforce at double the rate of urban women, it is rural women who are being hit the hardest.

METRO COUNT

City	Women (%)	Men (%)
Delhi	10.6	53.1
Kolkata	17.9	59.9
Mumbai	18.8	60.6
Chennai	19.4	58.6
Bengaluru	24.3	61.8

Workforce participation in %
Source: TIG calculations based on 2011 Census data

Times of India, May 13, 2013, P.1

India's total population stands at 1.21 billion

NEW DELHI, April 30 — India's total population stands at 1.21 billion, which is 17.7 per cent more than the last decade, and growth of females was higher than that of males, reports PTI.

According to the final census released by Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde today, India's total population as on March 1, 2011 is 1,210,726,932 or 1.21 billion — an increase of 181.96 million persons in absolute number of population during 2001-11.

There was an increase of 90.97 million males and increase of 90.99 million females. The growth rate of females was 18.3 per cent which is higher than males — 17.1 per cent.

India's population grew by 17.7 per cent during 2001-11, against 21.5 per cent in the previous decade. Among the major states, highest decadal growth in population has been recorded in Bihar (25.4 per cent) while 14 states and Union Territories have recorded population growth above 20 per cent.

Assam Tribune, May 1, 2013, P.1
(Population-India)

भारत शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य में बांग्लादेश-नेपाल से भी पीछे

यूनिसेफ की रिपोर्ट ने सरकार को दिखाया आईना

हिमांशु मिश्र

नई दिल्ली। आर्थिक और सामरिक महाशक्ति बनने की दौड़ में शामिल भारत की शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य के मामले में हालत बेहद खराब है। विकसित और विकासशील देशों से तुलना तो भूल जाइए, शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य के मामले में हम बांग्लादेश और नेपाल जैसे गरीब देशों से भी पीछे हैं। इस संबंध में बहुस्पतिवार को जारी यूनिसेफ की रिपोर्ट इन क्षेत्रों में भारत की नाकामियों को बेहद शर्मनाक तस्वीर पेश करती है। भारत में न केवल बेहद गरीबी में जी रहे देशों की तुलना में मृत्युदर ज्यादा है, बल्कि ये देश शिक्षा और औसत आयु के मामले में भी हमें मुंह चिढ़ा रहे हैं। हालत यह है कि बांग्लादेश की वार्षिक जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर भारत की तुलना में कम हो गई है।

पांच साल के कम उम्र के बच्चों की मृत्युदर भारत में आज भी बड़ी समस्या है। सर्वाधिक मृत्युदर वाले देशों की सूची में भारत का स्थान 49वां है, जबकि नेपाल 57वें पायदान पर तो बांग्लादेश 60वें स्थान पर है। वर्ष 2011 में भारत में इस आयु वर्ग के प्रति हजार बच्चों में

61 बच्चों की मौत हो जाती थी तो बांग्लादेश में महज 46 और नेपाल में महज 48 बच्चों की मौत होती थी। वर्ष 1990 में भारत में प्रति हजार बच्चों में 114, बांग्लादेश में 139 और नेपाल में 135 बच्चों की मौत होती थी।

भारत इन गरीब देशों से महज मृत्युदर के मामले में ही पीछे नहीं है, बल्कि जनसंख्या नियंत्रण, खासतौर से महिलाओं की शिक्षा और बच्चों के पोषण के मामले में भी हम इन देशों के पीछे हो गए हैं। भारत में माताओं को उचित और पोषिक आहार न मिलने के कारण 28 फीसदी कम वजन के बच्चे पैदा हो रहे हैं। भारत में 15 से 24 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग की 74 फीसदी लड़कियां साक्षर हैं तो बांग्लादेश और नेपाल की 78 फीसदी लड़कियां।

- भारत में गरीब देशों से भी ज्यादा मृत्युदर
- महिलाओं की शिक्षा के मामले में भी बुरा हाल

Amar Ujala, May 31, 2013, P.16
(Report-UNICEF)

'Infant, maternal health improving'

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Uttarakhand continues to perform well and Uttar Pradesh poorly on key health indicators as per the findings of the Annual Health Survey (AHS) conducted in 284 districts of nine States.

The nine States for which health indicators were released on Friday constitute 50 per cent of the country's population.

While Shravasti district of Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) - the number of deaths of children less than one year of age per 1000 live births - of 100, three districts of Almor, Pithoragarh and Rudrapur in Uttarakhand recorded a comparatively low IMR of 20.

The AHS was conducted in the Empowered Action Group States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan, besides Assam.

Uttarakhand also recorded the lowest Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) (162) and Assam the highest of 347 among these States.

Garhwal HQ (155) in Uttarakhand had the lowest MMR and Faizabad Mandal (437) in Uttar Pradesh the highest MMR which is defined as the

ratio of the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

As far as Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) is concerned, Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand recorded the lowest of 766 while Moradabad district of Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest of 1,050.

Among the States, Chhattisgarh recorded the highest SRB of 951 and Uttarakhand the lowest of 866. Assam recorded the highest rise in SRB.

Rudrapur and Pithoragarh (12) in Uttarakhand had the lowest Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (NNMR) and Balangir district of Odisha had the highest of 72.

Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand recorded the lowest Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) at 23 while Kandhamal district of Odisha had the highest of 142.

Funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and implemented by the Office of Registrar General, India, the AHS is conducted in all the 284 districts (as per 2001 Census) in eight Empowered Action Group States and Assam for a three-year period (a baseline survey followed by two updation surveys) spread over 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand had the lowest Crude Birth Rate (CBR) of 14.5 and Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh the highest of 40.2, while it declined in 261 (91.9 per cent) districts and remained same in 10 (3.5 per cent) districts as compared to the baseline.

As compared to the baseline, the IMR declined in 230 (81 per cent) districts and remained same in 30 (10.6 per cent) districts. A total of 248 (87.3 per cent) districts have an IMR of 45 or more.

For the Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (NNMR), it declined in 186 (65.5 per cent) districts and remained same in 55 (19.4 per cent) districts, while the U5MR declined in 249 (87.7 per cent) districts and remained same in 10 (3.5 per cent).

In the MMR, as compared to baseline, Rajasthan recorded the highest fall (67) while Jharkhand and Bihar recorded the lowest fall (11).

The nine States, which account for about 50 per cent of the total population, 60 per cent of births, and over 70 per cent of infant, under 5 and maternal mortality in the country, are high focus States in view of their relatively higher fertility and mortality rate.

Free porn, illicit liquor behind rise in rapes: Police survey

Karn Pratap Singh

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NEW DELHI: Free availability of porn movies, on internet and otherwise, as well as sale of illicit liquor have contributed to the recent rise in sexual crimes against women, says a survey by Delhi police.

In the wake of the findings, instructions have been issued to all police stations in the city to put an immediate stop on the sale of porn movies and illicit liquor in their respective jurisdictions.

They have been asked to conduct awareness programmes in schools and colleges to educate teenagers about the new rape laws and have been directed to paste posters and pamphlets, mentioning the enactment of the new law, at "conspicuous places".

"Delhi police has taken a good initiative in which they must educate youngsters about the new Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. They should tell the youth that even a normal act of sexual exploitation will come under the category of rape, attracting an equal stringent punishment," said Ashok Arora, a senior advocate.

The new orders were issued from the office of Special Commissioner (law & order) Deepak Mishra last week. The order, a copy of which is with HT, says that police personnel whose efforts will show results

SPECIFIC ORDERS ISSUED TO POLICE STATIONS



- Police stations have been ordered to conduct frequent surprise raids at cyber cafes
- Local police has been ordered to come down heavily on bootleggers, eating hubs and juice corners which facilitate sale of illegal liquor

- Female police officers deputed under 'Parivartan' scheme will disseminate information about new laws against sexual violence among the slum residents
- Departmental action will be initiated against SHOs failing to implement the orders.

on the ground will be encouraged with handsome rewards.

"Strict departmental actions will be taken against SHOs for showing lackadaisical attitude in implementing the instructions," the order said. The survey was conducted after the recent horrific rapes and gang-rape reported from Gandhi Nagar, Badarpur, Sangam Vihar, and others in which the accused committed the crime either after consuming liquor or after watching porn.

"Watching pornography incites and ruins the immature minds, who out of curiosity and to satisfy their urge tend to victimise women and children. Many sexual crimes are done under

the influence of alcohol," said a senior police officer.

The findings of the survey, which was conducted at the police station level, were shocking and it revealed that in markets such as Nehru Place, Sarojini Nagar, Palika Bazar and Janpath, electronic gadgets, including Chinese phones are being widely used in distribution of pornography to teenagers. To increase sale of such cheap phones, shopkeepers insert memory cards loaded with porn clips, the officer said.

"All the police stations have been asked to form a team and conduct frequent raids in markets and shops to seize such material," the officer said.

Hindu, May 4, 2013, P. 7

(Survey Report-Annual Health Survey)

Hindustan Times, May 21, 2013, P.2

(Survey-Police Survey)

जनगणना 2011 : एक अरब 21 करोड़ हैं हम

नई दिल्ली। अब भारत की जनसंख्या बढ़कर 1 अरब 21 करोड़ तक पहुँच चुकी है। 2001 में जहाँ भारत की जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर 21.5 प्रतिशत थी, वहीं 2011 में यह 17.7 फीसदी तक ही सीमित रही। साथ ही अच्छी बात यह भी है कि इन दस वर्षों में पुरुषों (17.1 फीसदी) की तुलना में महिलाओं (18.3 फीसदी) की संख्या में ज्यादा बढ़ोत्तरी हुई।

मंगलवार को गृहमंत्री सुशील कुमार शिंदे ने 1 मार्च, 2011 तक की जनगणना के अंतिम आँकड़ों को रिलीज किया। इसके मुताबिक भारत की कुल जनसंख्या 1,21,07,26,932 है। 2001 से 2011 तक भारत की जनसंख्या में

करीब 18 करोड़ लोगों की बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है, जिसमें 9.09 करोड़ पुरुष और 9.10 करोड़ महिलाएँ हैं। राज्यों की बात करें तो जनसंख्या के मामले में बिहार (25.4 प्रतिशत) सबसे आगे है जबकि अन्य 14 राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में 20 फीसदी से ज्यादा जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर रिकॉर्ड की गई।

कहते हैं असली भारत तो गांव में ही बसता है। सरकारी आँकड़ों भी इस बात के सुबूत हैं। 2011 जनगणना के मुताबिक भारत के 83.35 करोड़ लोग ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में रहते हैं, जो कि देश की दो तिहाई आबादी है। जबकि 37.71 करोड़ लोग शहरी क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आते हैं। 1951 में शहरी अनुपात जहाँ 17.3 फीसदी था, वहीं अब बढ़कर 31.2

प्रतिशत हो चुका है। एजेंसी साक्षरता दर में हुई बढ़ोत्तरी : पिछले दस साल में भारत में साक्षरता दर में भी काफी सुधार आया है। 2001 में जहाँ देश की साक्षरता दर 64.8 फीसदी थी, वहीं अब यह बढ़कर 73 प्रतिशत हो गई है। पुरुष साक्षरता दर 5.6 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 80.9 फीसदी जबकि महिलाओं की साक्षरता दर 10.9 फीसदी की वृद्धि के साथ 64.6 हो गई है। मिजोरम को छोड़कर सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में महिलाओं की साक्षरता दर में सुधार हुआ है। 2001-11 के बीच दादर व नागर हवेली (18.6), बिहार (14.8) और त्रिपुरा (14.0) ने बेहतर साक्षरता दर हासिल की। लगभग हर राज्य में साक्षरता दर में लिंग अनुपात में भी गिरावट हुई है।

- पिछली जनगणना के मुकाबले इस बार कम रही वृद्धि दर
- महिलाओं ने पुरुषों को पीछे छोड़ा



सबसे ज्यादा धनी आबादी वाला शहर दिल्ली

दिल्ली (11,320) अभी भी सबसे ज्यादा धनी आबादी वाला शहर है। जबकि अरुणाचल प्रदेश (17) एक बार फिर से सबसे कम आबादी वाला क्षेत्र साबित हुआ है। देश का प्रति वर्ग किमी जनसंख्या घनत्व भी 2001 (325) की तुलना में बढ़कर 382 पहुँच गया है।

सबसे खराब लिंग अनुपात हरियाणा में

हरियाणा लिंग अनुपात के मामले में देश के सबसे खराब राज्यों में सबसे ऊपर है। 2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार हरियाणा में 1000 लड़कों पर महज 879 लड़कियाँ ही हैं। इसके बाद जम्मू व कश्मीर (889) और पंजाब (895) का नंबर आता है। पूर्ण (912) और बिहार (918) में भी स्थिति ज्यादा बेहतर नहीं है। केरल (1084 लड़कियाँ) लिंग अनुपात के मामले में भी सबसे बेहतर साबित हुआ है।

Amar Ujala, May 1, 2013, P.11

(Census Data)

Working parents' tight schedule taking toll on children's development: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tight schedule of working parents is taking toll on the development of the kids, according to a survey.

The report 'Rising Youth Intolerance' prepared by the ASSOCHAM Ladies League (ALL) says that 65 per cent of students between the age group of 8-24 years surveyed were found to be spending less than an hour with their parents as a result they tend to become aloof, introvert, impatient and intolerant.

The report was released on Tuesday at a function here.

ALL Global Chairperson Harbeen Arora said, "Since violence and abuse emerge from complex causes, we require participation of multiple stakeholders in addressing the issue. The practices of responding to complaints and victims must become more sensitive and supportive, and civil society is ready to help in such endeavours."

The study highlighted the fact that the majority of youth spend less time in and with their families resulting in estranged relationships. Most of the respondents rarely shared any



problems with their parents. Thus, problems of communication, inadequate expression and lack of parental support have been identified as factors associated with behavioural problems in children and adolescents.

Member of Parliament Supriya Sule said, "People should form child protection groups at the community level to keep vigil over the neighbourhood and tabs on suspicious activities." She also added, "NGOs should reach out to slum areas and schools and provide awareness to our young boys and girls on various issues of abuse and how to prevent and handle it"

Member of Parliament Yashodhara Raje Scindia opined that the police should involve NGOs, civil society, experts in medicine, and psychiatrist at the complaint stage to provide physical, emotional and financial support to victims. She said, "Civil society can come forward and support the police by volunteering expert services like that of doctors, psychiatrists and counselors for a more caring involvement with community."

This amounts to reaching home much late in the evening and leaving home much earlier for office and its consequences have reflection only on children as with growing number of nuclear families, there is none to look after the children in their absence, adds the study.

Urvashi Butalia from Kali for Women said, "Rape and sexual assault are not merely women's issues, they are a symbol of the deep-seated violence that women and other marginalised people experience every day in our society. So a mindset change is required and there's a need for inculcating values for respecting women in our education and culture."

Pioneer, May 9, 2013, P.4

(Study Report- Rising Youth Intolerance)

दस साल में 17 फीसद बढ़ी आबादी

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : इक्कीसवीं सदी के पहले दशक (वर्ष 2001-11) के बीच देश की आबादी 17.7 फीसद बढ़कर एक अरब 21 करोड़ के पार पहुंच गई है। हालांकि राहत की बात है कि पिछले दशक की तुलना में जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर में तेज गिरावट आई है। साथ ही पुरुषों की तुलना में महिलाओं की संख्या में ज्यादा बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

गृह मंत्री सुशील कुमार शिंदे ने मंगलवार को

पुरुषों के मुकाबले महिलाओं की तादाद में कुछ बढ़ोतरी

जनगणना के आंकड़े आधिकारिक तौर पर जारी किए। इसमें एक मार्च, 2011 को भारत की जनसंख्या 1,21,07,26,932 (करीब 121 करोड़) बताई गई है। यानी वर्ष 2001 से 2011 के बीच देश की आबादी 18 करोड़ 19 लाख साठ हजार बढ़ गई। इस दौरान 9 करोड़ 09 लाख 70 हजार पुरुषों की तुलना में महिलाओं की तादाद 9 करोड़, 09 लाख, 90 हजार रही। पुरुषों की 17.1 फीसद की तुलना में महिलाओं की वृद्धि दर 18.3 फीसद रही। वर्ष 2001-11 के बीच जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर 17.7 रही जो पिछले दशक (1991-01)

जनसंख्या के तथ्य

- 25.4 फीसद वृद्धि दर के साथ एक चौथाई बढ़ गई बिहार की आबादी
- जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर 2001 में 21.5 फीसद से घटकर 2011 में 17.7 फीसद
- राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र की 97.5 फीसद आबादी शहरी क्षेत्रों में
- राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता दर 64.8 से आठ फीसद बढ़कर 73 फीसद हुई
- महिला साक्षरता दर 10.9 फीसद बढ़कर 64.6 तक पहुंची
- जनसंख्या घनत्व 325 से 382 पहुंचा, बिहार में सबसे ज्यादा 1106
- दिल्ली (11,320) व चंडीगढ़ (9258) सबसे घनी आबादी वाले शहरों में

में 21.5 फीसद थी। बिहार में सबसे जनसंख्या वृद्धि दर सबसे ज्यादा 25.4 फीसद रही। जबकि 14 राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में भी वृद्धि दर 20 के ऊपर रही। जनगणना 2011 के मुताबिक, 83 करोड़ 35 लाख लोग यानी देश की करीब दो तिहाई आबादी गांव में रहती है। जबकि शहरों में 37 करोड़ 71 लाख। शहरी आबादी की बात करें तो यह वर्ष 1951 के 17.3 फीसद की तुलना में 2011 में 31.2 फीसद तक पहुंच गई है। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र की 97.5 आबादी शहरी क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आती है। इस जनगणना दशक में साक्षरता दर भी 64.8 फीसद से बढ़कर 73 फीसद हो गई। पुरुष साक्षरता दर 5.6 बढ़कर 80.9 फीसद और

महिला साक्षरता दर 10.9 बढ़कर 64.6 फीसद रही। महिला साक्षरता दर में सभी राज्यों में बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है। शहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में साक्षरता दर की खाई धीरे-धीरे पटती जा रही है। साक्षरता के मामले में बिहार (61.8), अरुणाचल प्रदेश (65.4), राजस्थान (66.1), झारखंड (66.4) और ओडिशा प्रदेश (67 फीसद) के साथ निचले पांच राज्यों में शुमार है। जनसंख्या घनत्व भी वर्ष 2001 में 325 की तुलना में 2011 में 382 हो गया है। इस मामले में पश्चिम बंगाल को पीछे छोड़ते हुए बिहार (1106) सबसे शीर्ष पर पहुंच गया है। दिल्ली (11,320) और चंडीगढ़ (9258) सबसे घनी आबादी वाले शहर हैं।

Dainik Jagran (H), May 1, 2013, P.14 (Census Data)

एक घंटा भी माता-पिता के साथ नहीं बिता रहे हैं बच्चे

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

मोबाइल और इंटरनेट की दुनिया ने बच्चों को माता-पिता से दूर कर दिया है। एक अहम सर्वेक्षण में इस बात का खुलासा हुआ कि 8-24 साल के उम्र के 65 प्रतिशत बच्चे माता पिता के साथ रोजाना एक घंटे से भी कम समय बिताते हैं। सर्वेक्षण में बच्चों की व्यस्तता ही नहीं बच्चों को समय न देने के पीछे अभिभावकों को भी जिम्मेदार बताया गया है।

एसोचैम द्वारा किए गए अध्ययन में दस प्रमुख पहलुओं पर माता-पिता और

खुलासा

- एसोचैम के सर्वेक्षण में किया गया यह खुलासा
- 8-24 साल के 65 प्रतिशत बच्चे माता-पिता से दूर

बच्चों से बात की गई। इसके जरिए किशोरोवास्था में बदलने वाले व्यवहार रुचियों और आदतों का परिणाम बताया गया। एसोचैम के प्रमुख डॉ. हरबीन अरोड़ा ने बताया कि दिल्ली-एनसीआर के स्कूली बच्चों से पूछे गए

प्रश्नों में पाया गया कि अधिकांश बच्चे एकाकी परिवार में रहते हैं, जबकि केवल 14 से 16 प्रतिशत बच्चे संयुक्त परिवार से आते हैं जिसमें में भी ऐसे बच्चों का आंकड़ा निकाला गया, जिनका पोषण मेड या फिर घर की नौकरानी द्वारा किया गया।

अध्ययन में शामिल बच्चों के 42 प्रतिशत माता-पिता उच्च शिक्षा धारक पाए गए हैं और कामकाजी हैं, जबकि केवल पांच प्रतिशत माता-पिता कक्षा दस से भी कम पढ़े लिखे मिले, जो 16 प्रतिशत संयुक्त परिवार से ताल्लुक रखते हैं।

कैसे हुआ सर्वेक्षण

सर्वेक्षण के लिए दिल्ली एनसीआर के 100 स्कूलों के 10,000 बच्चों व अभिभावकों से दस प्रमुख बिन्दुओं पर प्रश्न किए गए। 8-24 साल की उम्र के बच्चों पर हुए सर्वेक्षण में 800 की उम्र 20 साल से अधिक थी।

बच्चों की आदतों संबंधी आंकड़े

तथा है अभिभावकों के परिणाम

84 फीसदी एकल परिवार, 16 प्रतिशत संयुक्त परिवार

42 फीसदी अभिभावक उच्च शिक्षा, 34 फीसदी स्नातक

45 फीसदी परिवार माता व पिता दोनों हैं कामकाजी

12 फीसदी महिलाएं ही हैं घरेलू

- 54 प्रतिशत एक से पांच घंटे का समय इंटरनेट पर बिताते हैं
- 35 प्रतिशत वीडियो गेम पर दो से तीन घंटे बिताते हैं
- 42 प्रतिशत एक घंटे से भी कम समय आउटडोर गेम में बिताते हैं
- 12 प्रतिशत ही अभिभावक के करीब, 98 प्रतिशत का दोस्तों पर अधिक भरोसा



Hindustan (H), May 9, 2013, P.5
(Survey Report-ASSOCHAM)

Kids barely get 60 mins daily with parents

New Delhi

Busy schedules of parents are increasingly depriving their children of their company and hence, they are growing up cocooned in their own world, says IANS. A study by Assocham Ladies League (ALL) shows that over 65 per cent of youngsters between the age of eight and 24 get to spend less than one hour with their parents.

This leads to a situation where youngsters become aloof, introverted, impatient and intolerant, says the study. Parents are reaching home much later in the evening and leaving home much earlier in the morning and the consequences of this are that with the growing number of nuclear families, there is no one to look after the children in their absence, adds the study.

ALL Global Chairperson Harbeen Arora said: "Since violence and abuse emerge from complex causes, we require participation of multiple stakeholders in addressing the issue. The practices of responding to complaints and victims must become more sensitive and supportive, and civil society is ready to help in such endeavours."

The study highlighted the fact that the majority of youth spend less time

in and with their families resulting in estranged relationships. Most of the respondents rarely shared any problems with their parents. Thus, problems of communication, inadequate expression and lack of parental support have been identified as factors associated with behavioural problems in children and adolescents.

Urvashi Butalia Director & Co-founder, Kall for Woman said: "Rape and sexual assault are not merely women's issues. They are a symbol of the deep-seated violence that women and other marginalised people experience every day in our society. So a mindset change is required and there's a need for inculcating values for respecting women in our education and culture"

"Abuse and violence in families not only affects the psyche of a child but also hinders growth and development. Children from homes where domestic violence is occurring are also more

likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour and tend to be intolerant and impatient", adds the study.



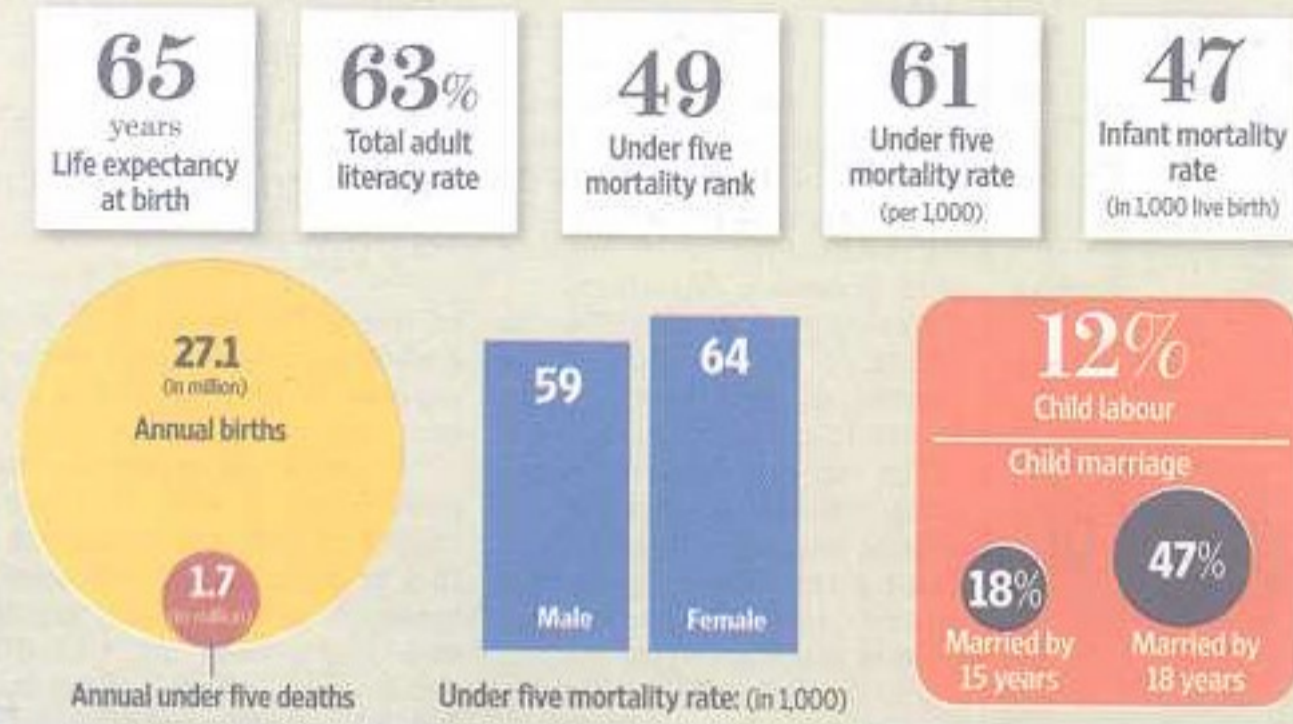
Free Press Journal, May 9, 2013, P.11
(Survey Report-ASSOCHAM)

THE STATE OF INDIA'S CHILDREN

The United Nations Children's Fund, or Unicef, said in its State of the World's Children report that 12% of India's children are engaged in child labour. The report focused on children with disabilities. Researchers maintain lack of credible data is a serious impediment to targeted interventions in this area. According to the 2001 Census, 2.13% of India's population comprises disabled people. However, the World Report on Disability, 2011, citing the World Health Survey, 2002-04, states that about 25% people are disabled in India.

The other key indicators:

Compiled by Vidya Krishnan/Mint



Mint May 31, 2013, P.8

'160 working school days in Manipur, Bihar has 253'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: If you thought students across the country have a uniform syllabus, number of lectures, which puts them at par with each other, think again. An NCERT study reveals that only half the states have adopted the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), which has resulted in variations in the number of working days, time allotted for teaching subjects like mathematics and science and evaluation of learning levels in schools.

For instance, the number of working days for school children varies across states. It is 160 days in Manipur whereas students in Bihar and Jharkhand go to school 253 days in a year. The number of lectures in different subjects ranges from 19 in Madhya Pradesh to 54 in Arunachal Pradesh and Haryana.

Variations in teaching subjects like mathematics are even starker. At a primary school level, students were taught mathematics at

The NCERT report found that the study model developed by NCERT in light of the NCF was followed only in 15 states and UTs, whereas 14 states and UTs had adapted the NCERT curriculum, syllabus and textbooks only

a maximum of 12 lectures in a week in Andhra Pradesh, while only five classes were taken in Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. At the secondary level, students in Odisha had only four classes of mathematics, while Arunachal and Uttarakhand had a maximum of nine classes.

The study reviewed the implementation of the NCF, 2005, with focus on the structure of different school stages, approaches of teaching different subjects, time allotted for annual examination and mechanism for evaluation of curriculum.

Learner evaluation marks were used in 21 states and Union Territories (UTs) and continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) was followed in only 17 states and UTs.

The report also found that the study model developed by NCERT in light of the NCF was followed only in 15 states and UTs, whereas 14 states and UTs had adapted the NCERT curriculum, syllabus and textbooks only.

The report said, "There are lots of variations in implementation of the NCF-2005 in terms of structure, working hours, recess periods, teaching of different subjects, evaluation pattern at primary, upper primary and secondary stages in different states and UTs."

The report suggests that states be provided with academic and financial support by the HRD ministry and NCERT to create a common structure of education in the first 10 years of schooling, an integrated approach to social science and science and a structured introduction of the CCE grading system.

Times of India, May 17, 2013, P.13(Report-NCERT)

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

Three lakh newborns last hardly a day

Kerala far ahead of rest of India in saving babies; Tamil Nadu follows suit

Aarti Dhar

CHANCES FOR LIFE

NEW DELHI: Over three lakh newborns in India die within 24 hours of their birth every year — the highest number in the world.

With a total of 3,09,000 babies hardly surviving a day, India tops the list for such deaths, according to a report titled 'State of the World's Mothers' released here on Tuesday.

The country accounts for 29 per cent of all such deaths — ranking below Nigeria, Pakistan and China, says the study by Save the Children — an organisation working for children's rights in 120 countries.

The report also claims that 4,20,000 babies across South Asia die on their first day — almost one every minute. Chronic malnourishment which leads to mental or physical impairment or 'stunting' is particularly severe in the region.

According to the report, of the one million babies who die each year on the day they are born, almost 40 per cent are in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Quoting Sample Registration Survey (SRS 2011) figures, the report says Madhya Pradesh has the highest burden of early newborn deaths (0-7 days) at 32, followed closely by Uttar Pradesh and Odisha (30). Other States with a high burden are Rajasthan, Chhattis-

garh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir.

Kerala is the leader in reducing neonatal mortality by a wide margin, while Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Maharashtra too have a better record than the national rate.

Challenges remain

Thomas Chandy, CEO of Save the Children in India, says: "For the first time in history, putting an end to this crisis is within our reach, but to achieve this will require unprecedented focus on saving babies in their first day of life. Save the Children recognises the immense efforts being made in India and the government's commitment to end child mortality in a generation. Although many challenges remain, India has mobilised the most important ingredient to long term success: political will."

The report, however, says that South Asia has made "significant" progress but, along with sub-Saharan Africa, "lags behind the rest of the world."

Two thirds of all newborn deaths occur in 10 countries, four of which are in the region: Nigeria, DR Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and China.

Bangladesh has reduced newborn mortality by 49 per cent since 1990. Community health workers reaching mothers and babies at home, and training birth attendants and medical staff in resuscitation devices to help babies breathe are factors in this progress.

Nepal has reduced mortality by 47 per cent since 1990.

Maternal risk

In South Asia, there are striking differences among the countries in the case of maternal risk to life. In Afghanistan, a mother has a one in 32 risk of maternal death, in India it is 1 in 170, and in Nepal one in 190.

The top three countries in the South Asian mothers' ranking are: Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The bottom three are Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.

Nigeria has 89,700 deaths in this category, followed by Pakistan (59,800), China (50,600), Congo (48,400), Ethiopia (28,800), Bangladesh (28,100), Indonesia (23,400), Afghanistan (18,000) and Tanzania (17,000).

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE OUT OF 1000

MADHYA PRADESH	32
UTTAR PRADESH	30
KERALA	5
TAMIL NADU	11


*Per seven days

4.2 lakh babies die on the first day of their birth in South Asia

Out of every three babies in the world dying on the first day of their birth, one is in India

In India, 24 out of 1,000 newborns die within seven days of their birth

Bangladesh has reduced newborn mortality by 49 per cent since 1990, Nepal by 47%



Hindu, May 8, 2013, P. 1
(Infant Mortality Rate)

शिशु मृत्यु दर रोकने पर बड़ा खर्च, सफलता शून्य

- ♦ जीटीवी अस्पताल द्वारा दिए गए आंकड़े दे रहे गवाही
- ♦ प्रसव के दौरान 5541 नवजात की मौत, जबकि 677 महिलाओं ने भी दम तोड़ा

जागरण संवाददाता, पूर्वी दिल्ली : प्रसव के दौरान जच्चा-बच्चा के जन्म को लेकर भले ही केंद्र सरकार के द्वारा करोड़ों रुपए खर्च किए जा रहे हों, लेकिन शिशु मृत्यु दर के अस्पतालों के आंकड़ों पर गौर करें तो स्थिति भयावह है। आरटीआई के जवाब में गुरु तेग बहादुर अस्पताल ने जो जवाब दिया, वो काफी चौंकाने वाला है। इसमें नवजात शिशु की मृत्युदर में बेतहाशा वृद्धि हुई है।

आरटीआई कार्यकर्ता नरेंद्र शर्मा ने अस्पताल प्रशासन से कई सवालों के जवाब मांगे थे। इसके आलाोक में अस्पताल प्रशासन की तरफ से जो जवाब मिला, उसमें सबसे ज्यादा चौंकाने वाला तथ्य था कि वर्ष 2007 से 2012 तक हजारों नवजात बच्चों को प्रसव के दौरान मौत हुई है। सबसे बड़ी बात है कि प्रत्येक वर्ष

इनकी संख्या में इजाफा हो रहा है। जबकि सरकार स्वस्थ प्रसव के लिए कई योजना चलाती है।

बावजूद इसके नवजात बच्चों की मौत सरकार की नीतियों पर सवाल खड़े करती है। इसके अलावा विगत पांच वर्षों में करीब 677 महिलाओं ने प्रसव के दौरान

अस्पताल के अंदर अपना दम तोड़ दिया। ये हालात तब हैं, जब जच्चा-बच्चा को सुरक्षित रखने और महिलाओं के प्रसव में परेशानी न हो। इसके लिए सरकार कई तरह के कार्यक्रम चला रही है। अस्पताल में विगत पांच वर्षों में 120259 प्रसव हुआ है।

गुरुतेग बहादुर अस्पताल की फाइल फोटो।

जागरण

Deccan Chronicle, May 3, 2013, P.11
(Infant Mortality Rate)

बच सकता है लाखों बच्चों का जीवन

मुद्रा

भारत डोगरा

बच्चों के जीवन को बचाने को किसी भी देश-समाज में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण माना जाता है। प्रचलित जीवन मूल्यों की भाषा में कहें तो इसे बहुत पुण्य का कार्य माना जाता है। इसके बावजूद एक कड़वी सच्चाई हमारे सामने है कि हमारे देश में बाल मृत्यु दर अभी बहुत अधिक है। जरूरत इस बात की है कि बच्चों का जीवन बचाने से जो हमारी भावनाएं जुड़ी हैं उन्हें एक ऐसे एक जन-अभियान का रूप दिया जाए ताकि वैज्ञानिक व तथ्य आधारित योजना के आधार पर लाखों बच्चों का जीवन प्रति वर्ष वास्तव में बचाया जा सके।

कितनी बड़ी संख्या में बच्चों का जीवन बचाना संभव है, इसका अंदाज इस तथ्य से लगाया जा सकता है कि जहां उचित पोषण, सही रखरखाव, डॉक्टरों इलाज व अन्य अनुकूल स्थितियां उपलब्ध होती हैं, वहां बच्चों की मौत बहुत कम होती है। एक हजार जन्म होने पर जापान में एक वर्ष की आयु तक मात्र दो मौतें होती हैं। इसे शिशु मृत्यु दर कहा जाता है। पांच वर्ष की आयु तक यहां मात्र तीन बच्चों की मौत होती है। दूसरे शब्दों में एक हजार जन्मे बच्चों में से 997 बच्चे पांच वर्ष की आयु पर कर लेते हैं, जो बच्चों की रक्षा को बहुत अच्छे दर है।

जापान काफी धनी देश है, पर अनेक निर्यन या गरीब आर्थिक क्षमता वाले देशों ने भी शिशु मृत्यु दर को कम करने में अच्छे सफलता प्राप्त की है। एक हजार जन्म होने पर क्यूबा में मात्र पांच शिशुओं की मृत्यु होती है। पांच वर्ष की आयु तक पहुंचने वाले बच्चों में मृत्यु की दर प्रति हजार मात्र छह है। क्यूबा ऐसा देश है जिसे बहुत कठिनाई सहनी पड़ी है। पर उसने बच्चों के पोषण पर व विशेषकर सही डॉक्टरों इलाज को बहुत महत्व दिया, जिससे कि उसे इतनी सराहनीय सफलता मिल सकी।

चीन, वियतनाम व श्रीलंका एशिया के तीन ऐसे देश हैं जिन्हें इस क्षेत्र में अच्छे सफलता मिली है। चीन में शिशु मृत्यु 16 व बाल मृत्यु दर 18 है। वियतनाम में यह आंकड़े क्रमशः 19 और 23 हैं। अनेक गंभीर कठिनाईयों और युद्ध में तबाही के बावजूद वियतनाम ने इतनी महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त की। श्रीलंका हमारा पड़ोसी देश है। वहां शिशु मृत्यु दर 14 है तो बाल मृत्यु दर 17 है।

पर इन सभी देशों की तुलना में भारत में शिशु मृत्यु दर बहुत अधिक है। भारत में शिशु मृत्यु दर 48 है व बाल मृत्यु

दर 63 है। सवाल यह है कि जब श्रीलंका में यह दर 14 और 17 है; चीन में 16 व 18 है तो हमारे देश में इन पड़ोसी देशों की अपेक्षा यह दर तीन से चार गुना अधिक क्यों है? इसका अर्थ यह है कि लाखों बच्चों का जीवन बचाने की बहुत बड़ी संभावना हमारे देश में मौजूद है। हमारे दो अन्य पड़ोसी देश बांग्लादेश और भूटान प्रायः प्रगति में भारत से पीछे माने जाते हैं, पर शिशु व बाल मृत्यु दर कम करने में वे हमसे आगे हैं।

बच्चों के जीवन को बचा से नज़रें नीचे पर जुड़ा सवाल है मां के जीवन को रक्षा का सवाल। गर्भावस्था का समय, बच्चे के जन्म का समय व उसके कुछ समय बाद का समय महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य व जीवन-रक्षा के लिए बहुत



संवेदनशील होता है। इस समय परिवार, समुदाय व सरकार पोषण, समय पर डॉक्टरों इलाज की उपलब्धता और उचित रख-रखाव पर ध्यान दें तो बहुत-सी माताओं के जीवन की रक्षा हो सकती है।

इन्के अभाव में या अन्य कारणों से इस समय में जिन महिलाओं की मृत्यु हो जाती है, उनकी गिनती प्रति एक लाख जन्म के आधार पर की जाती है। इसे मातृ मृत्यु दर कहा जाता है। स्वीडन में मातृ मृत्यु दर चार है। इसका अर्थ है, एक लाख जन्म होने पर मात्र चार मामलों में ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न होती है कि मां की मृत्यु हो। ऐसे अनेक धनी देशों में मातृ दर 10 से कम है। पड़ोसी देशों को देखें तो श्रीलंका और चीन का रिकॉर्ड अच्छा माना गया है जहां मातृ मृत्यु दर 35 व 37 तक कम हो सकी। पर भारत में मातृ मृत्यु दर

बहुत अधिक 200 है। यानी पड़ोसी देशों श्रीलंका व चीन से हमारी मातृ मृत्यु पांच से छह गुना अधिक है। यह बहुत चिंताजनक स्थिति है। प्रायः माना जाता है कि भारत विकास में पड़ोसी देशों नेपाल व भूटान से कहीं आगे है, पर मातृ मृत्यु दर कम करने में यह देश हमसे आगे है। अपनी तमाम कठिनाईयों के बावजूद वियतनाम इनसे भी आगे है।

यदि हम अन्य देशों के बजाए अपने देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की स्थिति को देखें तो भी यह पता चलता है कि शिशु व बाल मृत्यु दर को कम करने की कठिनाई भाग्यमान है, हमारे अपने देश में ही एक राज्य केरल जिसमें शिशु मृत्यु दर चीन व श्रीलंका जैसे देशों से भी कम कर दिया है, जबकि इन देशों को तो एक सफलता की कहानी के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जाता है। केरल में जहां शिशु मृत्यु दर मात्र 12 है वहीं मध्य प्रदेश में यह 59 है, यानी लगभग पांच गुना अधिक है। हमारे देश के क्षेत्रवार शिशु मृत्यु दर में भी बहुत अंतर है। शहरी क्षेत्र में शिशु मृत्यु दर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की अपेक्षा लगभग 40 फीसद कम है। इसकी वजह है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं व पोषण की स्थिति अधिक चिंताजनक है।

एक अज्ञानजनक बात यह है कि जहां समुचित प्रयास किए जाते हैं वहां अपेक्षाकृत कम समय में भी शिशु व बाल मृत्यु दर तेजी से कम हो सकती है। वर्ष 1990 में बांग्लादेश में शिशु मृत्यु दर 97 थी, जबकि भारत में 81 थी। वर्ष 2004 में बांग्लादेश ने इसे 38 तक कम कर दिया, जबकि भारत इस आंकड़े को 48 तक ही ला सका।

इससे यह भी पता चलता है कि आयु कम होने की स्थिति में भी पोषण, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, महिला जागृति आदि क्षेत्रों पर विशेष ध्यान देकर शिशु व बाल मृत्यु दर को कम किया जा सकता है। एक अति महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य यह भी है कि जिन देशों ने आर्थिक विषमता व सामाजिक असमानता को कम करने में सफलता प्राप्त की है, प्रायः उन्होंने बाल व शिशु मृत्यु दर को कम करने में महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त की है। इस दृष्टि से क्यूबा व वियतनाम के उदाहरण उल्लेखनीय हैं। अपने देश को देखें तो केरल का उदाहरण महत्वपूर्ण है। विशेषकर पोषण व स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं सब तक पहुंचाने में समता की और बढ़ना विशेष तौर पर जरूरी है।

इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं कि उचित नीतियां अपना कर व इन लोगों की भागीदारी व उत्साह से क्रियान्वित कर शिशु, बाल व मातृ मृत्यु दर को तेजी से कम करने में सफलता मिल सकती है। इसके लिए सबसे बड़ा प्रयास पोषण, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं, शिक्षा व महिला जागृति की दिशा में करना है, पर विषमता व असमानता को चुनौती देना भी जरूरी है। इस प्रयास को एक ऐसे राष्ट्रीय अभियान का रूप देना चाहिए जिसमें करोड़ों लोग पूरे उत्साह से जुड़ सकें।

Unsafe abortions killing a woman every two hours: Ipas India

Centre yet to implement recommendations of expert group

Meena Menon

MUMBAI: Unsafe abortions are killing a woman every two hours in this country, according to estimates and calculations correlating data on maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and Sample Registration System (SRS) data by Ipas, India, an international NGO working on increasing access to safe abortion services. The last nationwide MMR data giving details of causes of maternal deaths was in SRS 2001-03, said advisor, policy for Ipas India, Medha Gandhi.

While India's MMR has declined from 254 per 1,00,000 live births in 2004-06 to 212 in 2007-09, no recent incidence study provides data after 2002-03 on unsafe abortions, said Ms. Gandhi. As per SRS 2001-03, abortion-related deaths contribute to 8 per cent of (around 4,600 deaths annually) of all maternal deaths in India. Ipas' calculations, using national census and SRS data, indicates that one woman dies of abortion-related causes every two hours.

One of the major reasons is that the Centre is yet to implement the recommendations for amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act as discussed by an expert group it had constituted in 2010. The MTP Act, 1971, enabled wom-

en to undergo abortions with specific conditions. It was amended in 2003 to facilitate better implementation and increase access for women, especially in the private health sector.

However, over 40 years after the implementation of a liberal MTP Act, unsafe abortions continue to outnumber safe and legal abortions in India, said Ipas. To correct this, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had appointed the expert group to examine the MTP Act and amend it to enable increased access to safe abortion services.

Vinoj Manning, country director, Ipas, India, said abortion deaths are under-reported. A Lancet paper in 2007 said there were 6.4 million abortions, of which 3.6 million or 56 per cent were unsafe. Ipas has calculated based on the latest population and crude birth rates (CBR) which peg the number of induced abortion at 5,007,932, Ms. Gandhi said. The total number of abortions may have reduced due to higher use of contraception, she added.

Three years after the ex-

pert group was formed, no decision has been taken to amend the MTP Act based on its recommendations. It is feared that expanding the base of providers for abortion will lead to more sex-selective abortions. However, Ipas said 80-90 per cent abortions in the country take place in the first trimester and sex determination takes place in the second trimester. Women also delay abortion till the second trimester for reasons other than sex selection.

Backroom procedures

In the absence of safe legal options, women opt for backroom procedures which can be fatal. The proposed amendments to the MTP Act are aimed at increasing the availability of safe and legal abortion services. This was vital, as morbidity from unsafe abortions continues to remain high, Mr. Manning said. While there is no current nationwide data on this, figures from a 2003 national facility survey are illustrative. In terms of accessibility of safe abortion services in the public health system

where a MTP is available, only 73 per cent district hospitals in major States had this facility. In Bihar, it was only 35 per cent district hospitals and Uttar Pradesh 48.5, the lowest in the country. On the percentage of health facilities with at least one doctor who received training during the last three years, the situation was grim with only 14.6 per cent in primary health centres being trained.

Assessment project

Collating the research findings on who seeks abortions in India, Ipas referred to a qualitative study in six States and a community-based survey in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in 2003-04. The Abortion Assessment Project in its study found that most abortion seekers are married women who want to limit their families or space their children. Though awareness of family planning was high, women were not always able to use it because of cost, non-availability or lack of permission from husbands apart from fear of side effects. Additionally, women were hesitant to visit public hospitals because of long waiting times or unsympathetic attitude of staff or because doctors insisted on the husband's signature.

To expand the base of legal providers, the expert group had suggested amendments

for mid-level providers. In countries like Bangladesh for instance, field workers are trained to conduct abortions. "We haven't taken a quantum leap for abortion and the law has not kept pace with technical options. Abortion is still stigmatised," Mr. Manning pointed out.

The group has recommended increasing the base of legal MTP providers by including medical practitioners with a Bachelor's degree in Unani, Ayurveda or Homeopathy. Nurses with a three and half year's degree and registered with the Nursing Council of India, could also be included in the base of legal providers. Since the training required to provide only medical methods of abortion is significantly less than surgical abortions, it has been recommended to distinguish between the two trainings. This would enable more providers to be appropriately trained, thereby ensuring safe MTP services. The group also suggested the introduction of a clause which clearly states that only the consent of a woman is required for an MTP procedure. This is suggested to address the common practice of insisting on the consent of/notice to the woman's husband/partner, or of conditionally providing abortion service, on the condition of acceptance of contraception.

• 56 % of 6.4 million abortions in 2007 unsafe: Lancet paper, 2007

• Only 73 % district hospitals in major States have safe abortion services: 2003 survey

Hindu, May 6, 2013, P. 7

(MMR)

Saving children from death, stunting and severe sickness

Despite gains in health during the past few decades, India still lags behind in child survival. With diarrhoea still a major killer, this is no time to rest, writes **Dipika Sur**

A new global study published recently in *The Lancet* has confirmed rotavirus as a leading cause of diarrhoeal disease in children in India and across the world. With more than one lakh children dying of rotavirus every year in India, this research must catalyse all stakeholders into action to protect children's health and well-being.

India has experienced impressive improvements in economic status and population health during the past few decades. However, the country still lags behind others in child survival. The mortality rate for children aged five and younger currently stands at 61 per thousand live births. This is higher than many countries of similar per capita gross domestic product.

Diarrhoeal diseases are significant contributors to these high child mortality rates. Despite being largely preventable and treatable, diarrhoeal diseases are the second leading cause of death among children under five years of age globally, following pneumonia. In 2010, experts estimated that almost 17 lakh children, less than five years of age died in India. In India, Morris *et al* showed that 18 per cent deaths occurring in young children are due to diarrhoeal diseases.

The disease is caused by many different bacteria, viruses and pathogens. The challenge, without clear data on which pathogens account for the most severe illness and death has been, how to prioritise resources and research to reduce the burden of diarrhoeal diseases.

The release of new findings from the Global Enteric Multicenter Study reveals critical new information that can help us target our approach and finally

reduce this burden. GEMS is the largest and most in-depth study on diarrhoeal diseases to date — conducted in four sites in sub-Saharan Africa and three in South Asia, including Kolkata — and provides new insight on the causes and impact of these diseases.

The study found that the incidence of moderate to severe diarrhoea in India was the highest of the seven countries studied. GEMS estimated that there are roughly 90 episodes of moderate to severe diarrhoea among every 100 infants aged 0-11 each year. Rotavirus was



the leading cause of illness in children under the age of two in the slums of Kolkata and, on its own, caused an episode of MSD (moderate-to-severe diarrhoea) in approximately one of every four infants each year.

To reduce the burden of diarrhoea in India, we will need to deliver a comprehensive package of proven interventions. This includes access to oral rehydration therapy, zinc supplementation, encouraging exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a child's life, and improvements in hygiene, sanitation, and drinking water. Previously published GEMS data found that less than 30 per cent of children with

diarrhoeal disease who stayed at home received Oral Rehydration Salts — an affordable and effective treatment for dehydration. To supplement these interventions, rotavirus vaccines offer significant, targeted hope for protecting children from this terrible disease.

This is where India has an advantage. India's strong scientific community can innovate on new technologies very quickly, and our vaccine manufacturers are capable of producing quality vaccines for the world. India has already developed an indigenous rotavirus vaccine. The

vaccine, designated 116E, has demonstrated to be safe and immunogenic in Indian infants. Bharat Biotech, based in Hyderabad, with the Department of Biotechnology, was developing this vaccine with the Indian Government in a uniquely designed private-public partnership model. And the results are there for all to see.

India is at a critical juncture. It's been over two years since our last case of polio, which high-

lights the success we can have if strong partnerships are formed between multiple stakeholders. However, with diarrhoeal diseases still a major child killer, this is no time to rest. The true legacy of polio eradication in India could fade if the Government does not invest in innovations and new vaccines to fight diseases, which cause the maximum number of child deaths in our country. Not only would it provide tremendous social and economic returns, we would be making great strides towards a more equitable country where all children achieve their right to survival, good health and holistic development.

Pioneer, May 31, 2013, P.9

(Child Mortality Rate)

India one of the worst places to be born

More than three lakh children die in the country on the first day

Kalyan Ray

NEW DELHI: After sub-Saharan Africa, Indian sub-continent is the worst place in the world for a child to be born as almost one-third of the newborns are destined to die in the first day of their lives.

Every year 3,09,000 babies die on the first day of their lives in India, which tops a chart-10 countries with maximum number of first day baby deaths. The list also has Pakistan (59,800) at number third spot followed by Bangladesh (28,100) at seventh position and Afghanistan (18,000) at ninth place.

Preterm birth (babies born before 37 weeks of pregnancy), birth complications and infections are the three commonest causes of baby deaths in India and other countries. Almost half of all preterm deliveries happened at home, says a report prepared by non-governmental organisation Save the Children.

Way back in 2006, the Central government introduced the National Rural Health Mission to encourage institutional delivery. The government offered financial incentives for rural women to give birth in health facilities.

While facility births have boomed, says the new report released on Tuesday, the newborn death rates have not re-

duced commensurately, because most of the facilities had neither the quality of care nor trained, motivated and equipped health workers in place to handle the influx – a fact that had been highlighted by public health workers for the last few years.

This has spawned a new worrying trend on “maternal morbidity” that includes obstetrics fistula, damage of the reproductive tract, loss of child-bearing ability after the first birth and uterine prolapse, which is a genital problem that comes from traumatic childbirth.

The women, mostly from rural India, are suffering primarily because of the inability of people managing primary health care centres to recognise the clinical symptoms, failure in timely referral to a bigger hospital, poor quality medical intervention and absence of even basic facilities like electricity in labour rooms, say public health officials, who are not involved in preparing the report.

In India, death cases among babies born to poor mothers are twice when compared with that among babies born to rich mothers. If all newborns in India experienced the same survival rates as newborns from the richest 20 per cent of Indian families, nearly 360,000 more babies would survive each year.

India has more maternal deaths than any other country in the world (56,000 per year). In India and Nepal, 12 to 13 per

Country	No of first day deaths	Global burden of first day deaths
India	3,09,300	29%
Nigeria	89,700	9%
Pakistan	59,800	6%
China	50,600	5%
DR Congo	48,400	5%
Ethiopia	28,800	3%
Bangladesh	28,100	3%

cent of women are stunted, which puts them at higher risk of complications during delivery and of having small babies.

In both countries, 20 to 40 per cent of women are excessively thin, which compounds the risk of poor pregnancy outcomes. Early marriage and childbearing heighten the risks for both mothers and babies.

The latest government statistics shows in 248 districts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattishgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Assam, the infant mortality rate is 45 per 1000 live births or more, which is almost double the national target of having an IMR of 28. In almost 20 per cent districts, IMR remains either stagnant or has gone up.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, May 8, 2013, P.12

(Neo-natal Deaths)

For healthy motherhood

Aarti Dhar

Now women in ten more districts in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi can have more control over their reproductive health with the launch of phase III of Peהל — a women's health project aimed at reducing maternal mortality burden by promoting family planning and safe abortions.

Incidentally, U.P., Rajasthan and some parts of Delhi are still lagging behind the rest of the country in several health indicators. According to the National Health Profile report, the high maternal mortality rates (MMR) in these States adversely affect the average MMR of the country and hampers the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals of improved maternal and child health.

The initiative is being implemented by the Population Services International (PSI) in collaboration with the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI). It would take the total number of districts under Peהל to 30 — 14 in Rajasthan, 15 in U.P. and South-West Delhi — with 1,100 private service providers participating in the project from across the three States, an increase of 18 per cent over phase II.

The phase III aims to place 350,000 IUDs (intrauterine devices) through private service provider clinics and to generate demand among women of reproductive age for long-term contraceptive methods.

The MMR of U.P. and Rajasthan stands at a high 359 and 318 respectively — many of which could be avoided through family planning and safe abortions. Data from various district-level health surveys shows that there are 17.9 per cent, 33.7 per cent and 13.9 per cent unmet needs of contraceptives prevailing in Rajasthan, UP and Delhi, respectively, which have fuelled the rate of unwanted pregnancies associated with high maternal mortality and morbidity.

A health project aimed at reducing maternal mortality burden and unsafe abortions widens its reach in three States

According to Pritpal Marjara, managing director of PSI, "Peהל Phase III will continue to complement the government's efforts to reduce MMR and increase the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR). The project level goal is to improve CPR in the target districts from 54.8 per cent in 2012 to 58.7 per cent by 2015 and increase the percentage of women of reproductive age using IUDs from 4.3 per cent in 2012 to 6.1 per cent by 2015."

The Peהל project was launched in July 2008 and initially implemented in 10 States providing free services for IUD insertion. Based on the Phase I results, it was decided to focus the programme on just three States for better concentration of resources.

During 2011-2012, a total of 185,739 IUDs were distributed to healthcare providers across the three States, out of which 137,769 were inserted. About 348,402 Medication Abortion (MA) kits were also sold and 1,815 postpartum IUDs inserted during the time period.

Hema Divakar, president of FOGSI, said, "Several States, including Maharashtra, West Bengal and Kerala have proven that family planning helps to promote maternal health and reduce maternal mortality. If we promote family planning in Rajasthan, U.P. and Delhi, it can help us reduce MMR considerably."

The FOGSI will advocate changes in the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, and encourage the establishment of 'Doctors Opposing Sex Selected Termination of Pregnancy' (DOSST) cells by all the FOGSI societies.

India recorded around

56,000 maternal deaths in 2010, which translates into one mother dying every 10 minutes during pregnancy, child birth or within 42 days of delivery. The current national MMR is 212 per one lakh live births, which compares poorly with just 16 for the developed nations. Unsafe abortions are also a leading cause of maternal mortality in India. Of the 6.4 million abortions performed in the country, 3.6 million (56 per cent) are deemed unsafe. Estimates for the contribution of unsafe abortions to maternal death in India vary from 8 per cent to 20 per cent. Unsafe abortions are carried out in unsatisfactory conditions in poorly equipped clinics run by inadequately qualified staff. The problem is acute in rural areas where there is no access to quality healthcare and abortions carry a social stigma.

Hindu, May 5, 2013, P. 12

(Report-MMR)

4.3 Other relevant statistics (*Literacy Rate*)

Mega cities turning safe haven for criminals, says House panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a wake-up call to the Government, a Parliamentary panel has cautioned that mega cities could become a "dangerous place" for women and children if stringent measures were not taken to curb the growing incidents of crime against women.

The Committee on Empowerment of Women, which tabled the 74-page **CRIME AGAINST WOMEN** report in the just concluded Budget Session of Parliament, noted that 33,789 cases of crime against women were reported from 53 mega cities with over 10 lakh population in 2011 as compared to 24,335 in 2010.

"These statistical inputs explicitly point out to the fact that all the mega cities in the country, which are equipped with relatively modern police apparatus, are being transformed as safe haven for criminals and anti-social elements

who have scant regard for laws, law enforcement agencies and legal system," the panel said.

The panel headed by Rajkumari Ratna Singh said the mega cities are turning "safe havens" for criminals despite having adequate police apparatus. They called for a need for sincere effort to overhaul the "tattered policing system" in the country. The committee asked the Government to set up an expert group to study the growing trend of crime against women and children in mega cities and suggest "practical solutions" to curb the menace.

Referring to the gruesome rape of a woman in a moving bus on December 16, last year, the panel said that the spate of crimes against women in mega cities has not been contained. The panel remarked, "Cases of rape, molestation, abduction of women and children have become a "daily, shameful affair".

Pioneer, May 10, 2013, P.5

AP third-best in sex ratio, lags in literacy

DAYA RAGHUNATHAN | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 30

Census 2011, released by home minister Sushilkumar Shinde on Tuesday, said India's total population as on March 1, 2011 stands at 1.21 billion, 17.7 per cent more than the previous decade. In an encouraging sign, growth of females was higher than that of males, with Andhra Pradesh at third place with 993 females for 1,000 males.

The other four top performing states on female-male ratio were Kerala (1,084 females), Tamil Nadu (996), Chhattisgarh (991) and Odisha (979). The worst performing state on female-male ratio is Haryana with just 879 females for 1,000 males.

AP however has failed to replicate its sex ratio success on the literacy front, failing miserably at 67.01



per cent. The state is fifth from the bottom, with Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar bringing up the rear. According to the census, Andhra Pradesh has a recorded population of 8,45,80,777 with a male population of 4,24,42,146 and a female population of 4,21,38,631. The figures show that 5,83,61,702 people stay in rural areas of the state while only 2,82,19,075 stay in the

urban areas. The Telangana districts, including Hyderabad, have a population of 3,51,70,211. 5,05,56,760 of the total population are literate.

The density of population in the country has also increased from 325 in 2001 to 382 in 2011 in per sq km. Among the major states, Bihar occupies the first position with a density of 1106, surpassing West Bengal which occupied the first position during 2001.

Deccan Chronicle, May 1, 2013, P.7
(Literacy Rate)

India's literacy rate increases by 8%

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

India's literacy rate has increased by eight per cent to 73 per cent in Census 2011 as compared to 64.8 per cent in 2001. While the male literacy rate stands at 80.9 per cent, which is 5.6 per cent more than the previous census, the female literacy rate stands at 64.6 per cent, an increase of 10.9 per cent over 2001. The highest increase took place in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, by 18.6 points (from 57.6 per cent to 76.2 per cent); Bihar, by 14.8

points (from 47.0 per cent to 61.8 per cent); and Tripura, by 14.0 points (from 73.2 per cent to 87.2 per cent).

What remains a concern is the skewed sex ratio in Haryana, which continues to have the worst male-female ratio among all states. According to the 2011 Census, the number of females per 1,000 males in Haryana in 2011 stands at 879 followed by Jammu and Kashmir (889 female) and Punjab (895 females). The other two worst-performing states in terms of skewed sex ratios are Uttar Pradesh

(912 females) and Bihar (918 females).

The five top-performing states in terms of sex ratio were Kerala (1,084 females), Tamil Nadu (996), Andhra Pradesh (993), Chhattisgarh (991) and Orissa (979).

The sex ratio of the population in the country in 2011 stands at 943 female against 1,000 males, which is 10 per cent more than the last census when the number of females per thousand males was 933.

Meanwhile, the child population in the age of 0 to 6 years has increased by 0.4 per cent to 164.5 mil-

lion in 2011 from 163.8 million in 2001. However, in 17 states and UTs, the child population has declined in 2011 compared to 2001. Further, there has also been a decline of eight per cent in the sex ratio of the 0-6 age group. In 2011, the child sex ratio (0-6) stands at 919 females against 1,000 males in comparison to 927 females in 2001. With the declaration of the sex ratio in the age group 0-6, the Census authorities tried to bring out the recent changes in society in its attitude and outlook towards the girl child.

It was also an indicator of the likely future trends of the population's sex ratio.

The report noted that the Empowered Action Group (EAG) states have lower urban proportions (21.1 per cent) in comparison to non-EAG states (39.7 per cent).

The density of population in the country has also increased from 325 per sq. km in 2001 to 382 in 2011. Among the major states, Bihar occupies the first position with a density of 1,106, surpassing West Bengal which occupied first position in 2001.

Asian Age, May 1, 2013, P.3
(Literacy Rate)

Female literacy rate goes north, gender ratio south

NEW DELHI: A stirring trend of females outnumbering males in literacy was revealed by primary Census 2011 abstract data released by Union Home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde on Tuesday.

But, at the same time the child sex ratio has declined from 2001 which Shinde described it as a sign of "distress", among the latest statistics compiled by the Registrar-General of India.

While sharing the highlights of the census figures released a year ahead of schedule, Registrar-General C Chandramouli explained that a person above the age of seven who could read and write was considered as literate in the country.

"An extremely positive development in the present decade is that the gap of 21.59 percentage points recorded between male and female literacy rates in 2001 census has reduced to 16 percentage points in 2011," the RGI report stated.

Kerala topped the literacy chart among all the states having 94 per cent persons who can read and write, followed by Lakshadweep 91.8 per cent, Mizoram 91.3 per cent, Goa 88.7 per cent and Tripura 87.2. On the other hand, the last five states and UTs are Bihar 61.8 per cent, Arunachal Pradesh 65.4 per cent, Rajasthan 66.1 per cent, Jharkhand 66.4 per

cent and Andhra Pradesh 67 per cent.

"The gap between the literacy rate in urban and rural areas is steadily declining in every census. In Census 2011, the gap stands at 16.3 points. As per latest statistics, the literacy rate among urban population is 84.1 per cent against 67.8 for rural population, the RGI data stated.

The country's population stands at 1.21 billion, which is 17.7 per cent more than in 2001 when the last census was conducted.

The spread of the population remains more concentrated in rural areas. Of this, 763.5 million is literate. More than a decade back in 2001, the figure was 560.7 million.

But, the figures showed the disturbing trend of the child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years nose-diving to 919 females per 1,000 males against 927 in 2001 census.

On the contrary, the overall sex ratio increased marginally from 933 females per 1,000 males in 2001 to 943 two years back.

Highs & lows

- Kerala tops the literacy chart
- Gap between male and female literacy rates reduced to 16 pc in 2011
- India's population stands at 1.21 billion
- Child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years goes for a toss
- Haryana has the worst male-female ratio

Among the states and Union territories, Haryana has the worst male-female ratio while literate Kerala fares the best. It was followed by Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Five top performing states in terms of sex ratio were Kerala (1,084 females), Tamil Nadu (996), Andhra Pradesh (993), Chhattisgarh (991), Odisha (979).

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, May 1, 2013, P.12
(Literacy Rate)

Gurgaon has lowest sex ratio, but highest literacy in Haryana

But Mewat with the highest sex ratio has the lowest literacy

Ashok Kumar

GURGAON: Most districts of South Haryana have fared poorly on the sex ratio, final population figures of Census 2011 for the State released on Wednesday have revealed.

The sex ratio has gone up from 861 in 2001 to 879 in 2011, but it is still less than the all-India sex ratio of 943. The figures for all districts have increased except two South Haryana districts of Mahendragarh where it has decreased by 23 points from 918 to 895 and Rewari from

899 to 898. Gurgaon (854), Sonapat (856) and Jhajjar (862) are the three districts with the lowest sex ratio. Mewat (907) and Fatehabad (902) on the other hand top the list with the highest sex ratio.

The child sex ratio (0-6 years), which provides an insight into the survival of young girls, has registered a steep fall in Mahendragarh, Jhajjar, Rewari and Bhiwani. While Mahendragarh has registered a fall of 43 points from 818 to 775, Rewari has shown a fall of 24 points

from 811 to 787. In Jhajjar it has decreased from 801 to 782 whereas in Bhiwani it has gone down from 841 to 832. Kurukshetra has recorded the maximum jump from 771 to 818.

Interestingly, Gurgaon, which figures among the districts with the lowest sex ratio, has the highest literacy rate at 84.7 whereas Mewat, which has recorded the highest sex ratio, has the lowest literacy rate at 54.1.

The percentage share of Scheduled Castes has increased to 20.2 per cent in

2011 compared to 19.3 per cent in 2001. Fatehabad has recorded maximum percentage of SC population at 30.2 per cent followed by Sirsa 29.9 per cent and Ambala 26.3 per cent. Mewat has the lowest SC population at 6.9 per cent, the report said.

In the past decade, the urban population has increased by 44.6 per cent whereas the rural population has risen by only 9.8 per cent. The total population of Haryana is 2.53 crore — an increase of 19.9 per cent from 2001.

Hindustan Times, May 23, 2013, P.9

(Literacy Rate)

In Haryana, Gurgaon tops literacy rate but has worst sex ratio

VARINDER BHATIA

CHANDIGARH, MAY 22

THE 2011 Census has brought both good and bad news for Gurgaon. The fast developing city, according to census figures, has the highest literacy rate and the worst sex ratio in the state.

The data shows that Gurgaon has a literacy rate of 84.7 per cent, followed by Panchkula at 81.9 per cent and Ambala at 81.7 per cent, but the sex ratio remains a dismal 854 women to 1,000 men.

Gurgaon also topped the state in female literacy rate at 78 per cent.

Gurgaon was overtaken in sex ratio by districts such as Rohtak, Jhajjar and Panipat, which had been trailing in the

2001 Census.

A comparison with the previous census shows that Gurgaon's sex ratio, 10 years ago, stood at 850 — Rohtak and Jhajjar had 847 and Panipat was 829.

But in a decade, the other three districts registered a significant increase in sex-ratio, — Panipat's sex ratio reached 864 (an increase of 35 points), Rohtak jumped to 867 and Jhajjar reached 862.

Faridabad's sex ratio was 826 in 2001. This figure rose to 873 in the 2011 Census.

Gurgaon also recorded 73.1 per cent growth in population in the past one decade, hinting at largescale migration. Mewat district recorded 38.7 per cent decadal growth of population and

Faridabad followed with 32.5 per cent.

As far as towns' population is concerned, Gurgaon town area figures second with 8,86,519 people while Faridabad has the maximum population of 14,14,050 among the towns in Haryana.

The Scheduled Caste population in Gurgaon showed a decline in the past one decade. While the percentage of SC population in Gurgaon was 14.8 per cent in 2001 Census, it dipped to 13.1 per cent in 2011.

In terms of literacy rate, Gurgaon showed an increase from 78.5 per cent to 84.7 per cent. While Mewat, which has the lowest literacy rate in Haryana at 54.1 per cent, also showed an increase of 10.7 per cent as compared to 2001 Census. Faridabad recorded a literacy rate of 81.7 per cent.

IN NUMBERS

SEX RATIO IN GURGAON TEHSILS

PATAUDI

911

MANESAR

779

GURGAON

849

LITERACY IN GURGAON TEHSILS

GURGAON **87** per cent

MANESAR **83.6** percent

FARIDABAD **82.6** per cent

Economic Times, May 23, 2013, P.1

(Literacy Rate)

5. Schemes/ Programmes relating to Women and Children

5.1 Schemes/Programmes (Schemes-NMMSA/Suposhan /IFA Tablets/Sabla/Micro-Credit/ MGNREGA/SarvaSikshaAbhiyan/Mid-Day Meal/ Programme for Minorities)

आधार संख्या से जोड़ी गई शिक्षा प्रोत्साहन योजना

जुलाई से देश के 121 जिलों में होगी लागू

नई दिल्ली, 22 मई (भाषा)। लड़कियों के सर्वांगीण विकास की पहल के तहत सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा प्रोत्साहन योजना (एनएमएमएसए) की आधार संख्या आधारित प्रत्यक्ष नकद अंतरण प्रणाली से जोड़ा है। जुलाई 2013 से देश के 121 जिलों में यह योजना लागू हो जाएगी।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि यह योजना दिसंबर 2012 में देश के 16 राज्यों के 43 जिलों में पायलट आधार पर शुरू की गई थी। सरकार ने इसके दूसरे चरण के तहत एक जुलाई 2013 से देश के 78 और जिलों को इस योजना के दायरे में लाने का फैसला किया है। लड़कियों के लिए राष्ट्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा प्रोत्साहन योजना के साथ राष्ट्रीय मेधा छत्रवृत्ति योजना को भी आधार संख्या से जोड़ते हुए प्रत्यक्ष नकद अंतरण प्रणाली के तहत लाया गया है। इस तरह एक जुलाई से देश के 121 जिलों में लड़कियों के लिए राष्ट्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा प्रोत्साहन योजना, प्रत्यक्ष नकद अंतरण प्रणाली से जुड़ जाएगी। सरकार ने इस योजना को चरणबद्ध तरीके से देशभर में लागू करने की योजना बनाई है।

मंत्रालय ने इसके तहत सभी राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के मुख्य सचिवों को पत्र लिखा है और उनसे इस योजना के लाभार्थियों के आंकड़ों को डिजिटल रूप में तैयार करने को कहा है। राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के मुख्य सचिवों को लिखे पत्र में कहा गया है कि सभी जिलों में लाभार्थियों का डिजिटल आंकड़ा तैयार करने का काम शुरू किया जाना चाहिए। यह योजना आयोग की ओर से पेश किए गए खाका के अनुरूप होनी चाहिए। इसे एक जुलाई 2013 से 78 जिलों में लागू किए जाने के बारे में स्पष्ट निर्देश दिया जाना चाहिए। साथ ही आधार संख्या आधारित भुगतान सुविधा मुहैया कराने का काम तेज करने के लिए कहा गया है ताकि एक जुलाई से पहले इसे आगे बढ़ाया जा सके।

पत्र में लिखा गया है कि लाभार्थियों को इस योजना के दायरे में लाने की प्रक्रिया की कड़ी निगरानी की व्यवस्था बनाई जानी चाहिए। मंत्रालय ने चिन्हित जिलों से जुड़े राज्यों से लाभार्थियों के लिए बैंक खाता

खोलने, आधार संख्या के साथ डिजिटल डाटा तैयार करने का कार्य तत्काल शुरू करने का अह्वान किया है। साथ ही सभी जिलों के कलक्टर से दोनों योजनाओं से जुड़े प्रत्यक्ष नकद अंतरण से गतिविधि की प्रगति रिपोर्ट स्कूली शिक्षा व साक्षरता विभाग को भेजने को कहा गया है।

Jansatta (H), May 23, 2013, P.5

(Scheme-NMMSA)

EDMC midday meal samples found inedible

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

The food provided to the students in schools run by East Delhi Municipal Corporation under midday meal scheme is mostly contaminated. This revelation has been made by an agency hired by the corporation to check the quality of food served in its schools under the midday meal scheme.

A report, which was tabled in the EDMC standing committee meeting on

Wednesday, says that 88 out of 100 midday meals samples collected were found not fit to eat.

According to the report, only 12 out of the 100 samples were found edible.

In midday meal, the students are served *poori*, *sabzi*, *curry*, *halwa*, *rice*, *rajma*, *chana* and seasonal vegetables. The food also lacked protein and calcium content.

The corporation has assigned the distribution of midday meals to several agencies. Stri Shakti

serves food to about 95,000 children in Shahdara South, Bharatiya Manav Kalyan Parishad caters to 78,000 students in Shahdara North and Dalit Manav Utthan Sanstha serves about 70,000 students in Shahdara North.

Standing committee chairman Sanjay Surjan said that the quality of food distributed under the midday meal in the corporation schools would be improved.

EDMC commissioner Kumarswami said that any

laxity in mid day meal will not be tolerated and stringent action would be taken against the agencies.

Since the trifurcation of the corporation, the officials conducted food inspection 31 times. During the inspection, officials inspected light conditions, availability of water and the thickness of the *poori* served. Corporation officials confirmed that they are taking action against the agencies.

According to the report, the corporation paid ₹2.89

per meal per day for April, May and June 2012. The corporation will pay ₹3.11 for the rest of 2012 and 2013.

The corporation has paid ₹1,271.81 lakhs to the agencies as conversion cost for the meals served in its schools.

Under the mid day meal scheme of the corporation, Shri Ram institute for Industrial Research has the responsibility of investigating and checking the food supplied in the schools.

Asian Age, May 30, 2013, P.1

(Mid Day Meal)

Ministry of Minority Affairs during 2012-13

With Determination To Ensure Inclusive
Growth of Minorities

Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Minorities

- 391 New Primary/Upper Primary Schools opened.
- 274 Primary/Upper Primary Schools constructed.
- 34158 Additional Class Rooms constructed in Districts having substantial minority population.
- 3,30,200 Indira Awas Yojana houses sanctioned for minorities.
- Loans to the tune of Rs.1,75,293 Crore extended under Priority Sector Lending from Banks.
- 58,369 minority beneficiaries assisted under Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP)

- Projects of Rs.1109.74 Crore sanctioned for construction of:
 - ▶ 14,244 Indira Awas Yojana houses.
 - ▶ 36 Schools, 151 Hostels, and 2101 Additional Class Rooms.
 - ▶ 41 ITIs and 13 Polytechnics.
 - ▶ 1,885 Aanganwadi Centres.
 - ▶ 15,423 Drinking Water facilities.
 - ▶ 307 Health Centres and 343 Toilets.

Educational Empowerment

- Pre-matric Scholarships awarded to 64,50,235 minority students.
- Post-matric Scholarships awarded to 7,55,643 minority students.
- Merit-cum-Means based Scholarships awarded to 68,096 minority students.
- Maulana Azad National Fellowship awarded to 754 new students and 2266 renewals.
- Free Coaching provided for Competitive Examinations to 6,718 students.

Women Empowerment

- 36,950 women trained in 12 States with Rs.10.45 Crore under Scheme for "Leadership Development of Minority Women".



Jansatta (H), May 23, 2013, P.1
(Programme for Minorities)

Gujarat:

Story of Pride and Progress

53rd Gujarat Formation Day

May 1st, 2013

Seeing is Believing

- **Women Empowerment** : The female literacy rate in Gujarat has gone up from 57.80% in 2001 to 70.73% in 2011 due to special initiatives like Kanya Kelavani and Vidyalakshmi bond
- **Healthy Mother, Healthy Child** : Effective implementation of welfare schemes Chiranjeevi Yojana, E-mamta and Matruvandana for ensuring safety of women and child

Project to tackle undernutrition in children launched

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath on Thursday launched the World Bank-assisted ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) here.

The programme aims at improving child development and nutritional outcomes for children in selected districts having higher proportion of child undernutrition.

The total size of the project is Rs.2,893 crore with 70 per cent IDA share of Rs. 2,025 crore over 7 years.

Ms. Tirath said that improving nutrition status of India's women and children was a high priority.

"The last National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) data indicates about 43 per cent children under-5 years of age and 40 per cent under-3 are underweight. We have focused our efforts on targeting children, mothers and adolescent girls through various programmes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and other Ministries," the Minister said.

World Bank Country Director for India Onno Ruhl said that undernourishment could begin before a child was even born, with the critical period continuing until it turned two. Nutrition was the key component to lift people above poverty levels and for this the programme must have a structure to ensure that the systems were in place so that the benefits reached the intended beneficiaries.

Hindu, May 10, 2013, P. 9

(Programme-ISSNIP)

Free Press Journal, May 1, 2013, P.5

Scheme to tackle malnutrition among EDMC school children

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has launched 'Suposhan', a programme to detect and correct iron deficiency, 'anaemia', among children studying in schools under its jurisdiction. The programme was launched at M.C. Primary School, Subhash Park, which is run by the Corporation.

"Malnutrition is multi-factorial in origin and requires strategies to break the inter-generational effects. The private sector has a role to play in combating under-nutrition. It can make its core business more nutrition friendly and it can complement the role of

the State in key areas such as fortification," said former Member of Parliament Om Prakash Kohli while launching the scheme.

According to the Harsh Malhotra, chairman of the Education Committee of the Corporation, under the scheme around 50,000 children of the corporation schools would be assessed for their height, weight and haemoglobin level. The six-month-long programme targets 45 sites, covering 90 schools (morning and evening shifts).

"After de-worming, the children diagnosed with anaemia would be provided with iron-fortified biscuits that will

continue being distributed until the programme is completed. The scheme is pre-meditated to identify anaemic children. EDMC school children being more susceptible to it, given their socio-economic condition, made us orient the entire programme around them," added Mr. Malhotra.

Dr. C. S. Pandav, Head of Department, Community Medicine, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which has extended technical support to 'Suposhan', said: "Although anaemia could hamper health and productivity at any age, its effects are most devastating for children as it could not only restrict

their physical and cognitive development at the foetal stage but after birth as well. This calls for immediate intervention from private and government stake holders equally."

The scheme, which has been designed by EDMC in collaboration with Heal Foundation and Britania Nutrition Foundation, also intends to spread awareness among the parents about the symptoms and health hazards of anaemia and measures to counter it. For the purpose of facilitating efficacy in the awareness drive, multiple communication tools like information leaflets, pamphlets, posters and hoardings will be used.

Economic Times, May 14, 2013, P.11

(Programme- Suposhan)

Students to get pills for anaemia

Scheme To Be Launched From July 15, Will Cover 9 To 18-Yr-Olds

Naziya Alvi Rahman | TNN

New Delhi: Alarmed at the results of a survey of government school students that found 20% of them suffering from anaemia, Delhi government is set to launch Centre's WIFS (Weekly Iron and Folic acid Supplementation programme) in all government schools and anganwadi centres from July 15.

The health ministry had launched the ambitious plan in December 2011. The ministry had suggested state governments roll out a budget plan for its implementation and seek funding under National Rural Health Mission for 2012-13.

As part of the project, every child in the age group of 9-18 years will be given a tablet of iron and folic acid commonly known as IFA tablet. The tablet will be supplied from Class VI onwards. However, for the two per cent adolescents who were found to be suffering from severe anaemia with haemoglobin levels below 7 grams, the project suggests a 100-day administration plan.

"The IFA tablet would be ad-

NO MORE BAD BLOOD

WHAT IS ANAEMIA?

Anaemia is a condition in which blood has lower than normal count of red blood cells or the red blood cells don't contain enough haemoglobin.

EFFECTS

- ▶ Tiredness or weakness
- ▶ Shortness of breath
- ▶ Dizziness and headaches
- ▶ Severe or long-lasting anaemia can damage heart, brain and other organs

Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation Programme starting July 15

One iron and folic acid tablet to be given to each adolescent in anganwadi or school every week

Screening of target group and referring cases to appropriate health facility

Those with severe anaemia to be put on a 100-day programme

ministered irrespective of the haemoglobin status of the target group as we want every adolescent to have healthy haemoglobin levels," health minister A K Wallia said.

In Delhi, check-ups were carried out as part of the health department's elaborate plan for phase-wise screening of a total of 14.74 lakh students in government schools under Chacha Neh-

ru Sehat Yojana launched in 2011.

As per the plan, IFA tablets containing 100 mg of elemental iron and 500 micrograms of folic acid would be given for 52 weeks at a dosage of one tablet per week.

Results of screening of adolescents under Chacha Nehru Sehat Yojana

Prevalence of anaemia among boys and girls in the range of **42-56%**

Results of screening of adolescents in government-run schools

2% Adolescents with severe anaemia
20% Adolescents suffering from moderate anemia

'Govt in the dark on status of 13 schemes'

Nitin Sethi | TNN

New Delhi: If the dictum 'you can't manage what you can't measure' is true, then the government surely has an unsteady grip over at least half of the 13 flagship schemes worth nearly Rs 2 lakh crore annually, which accounts to almost 80% of the total spend on the central schemes.

The government is unable to efficiently collate information to assess whether some of the 13 key flagship schemes are producing the results for which crores are being spent every year, a study by the Planning Commission's think tank, Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), said.

Two programmes which have made great strides in providing detailed information are the rural employment and rural roads schemes. But for the few that have improved, allowing not just the government but also the public to assess the quality of work, there are several others which are floundering, the IAMR study found. With the data is being collected, it is not possible to assess if the programmes such as Integrated Child Development Scheme, rural telepho-

The government is unable to efficiently collate information to assess whether some of the 13 key flagship schemes are producing results or not

ny, irrigation and mid-day meals are meeting their objectives, the think tank said.

The IAMR report said, there was a weak connection between data on what was implemented and what goals were really achieved. "This is applicable for majority of flagship schemes, except PMGSY and MGNREGS," the study said.

The information collected also differed from other authenticated sources of data. "For instance, Integrated Child Development Scheme and National Family Health Survey are quite inconsistent on data of level of malnutrition for each state and at national level. Data authentication and validation is a criterion that is not followed in many schemes," the study said.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Rajasthan Patrika, May 23, 2013, P.8

(Scheme-IFA Tablet)

GoM to Take Call on Central Govt Schemes

GoM to iron out differences between the finance ministry and Plan Panel

YOGIMA SETH SHARMA
NEW DELHI

A group of ministers will now decide the number of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) after ironing out differences between the finance ministry and the Planning Commission.

Finance minister P Chidambaram has in his budget speech said that the proliferating centrally sponsored schemes will be restructured into 70 schemes. Government sources told ET that deputy chairman of the Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia is agreeable to a higher number to accommodate requests made by ministries.

A committee set up under planning commission member BK Chaturvedi had suggested reducing the central schemes to 59 from 147 to avoid overlap. The lack of consensus on the number of schemes has pushed the matter to a group of ministers now, a government official familiar with the developments told ET.

"The Cabinet has now referred it to a GoM. The group of ministers is expected to be con-

stituted this week," the official said.

The Planning Commission would like the number to be close to 70 but is less fixed on the exact reconfiguration and is instead emphasising more on the flexibility to states, flexi funds and the flagship schemes under the proposed restructuring of CSS.

Differences on the number of schemes had popped up during inter ministerial consultation over the last few months.

In the recently held Cabinet meeting, finance minister was adamant on restricting the number of schemes to 70 while Ahluwalia is willing to stretch it further to accommodate the demand of several ministries for additions.

At the end of 11th Plan in 2011-12, there were 147 centrally sponsored schemes. In addition to this, the BKC Committee had considered another 26 additional central assistance schemes in its report, taking the total number to 173. These included flagship schemes, block grants to states and scheme based on additional central assistance.

At the end of 11th Plan in 2011-12, there were 147 centrally sponsored schemes. In addition to this, the BKC Committee had considered another 26 additional central assistance schemes in its report, taking the total number to 173. These included flagship schemes, block grants to states and scheme based on additional central assistance.

yogima.sharma@timesgroup.com

Times of India, June 29, 2013, P.21

मिड डे मील योजना में होगा बदलाव

गोवा सरकार का निर्णय योजना का विस्तार दसवीं कक्षा तक

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गोवा सरकार मिड डे मील योजना में बदलाव लाकर बेहतर पोषण के लिए व्यंजन सूची में सुधार करेगी। साथ ही भोजन की गुणवत्ता पर निगरानी रखने के लिए माता-पिता की भागीदारी जैसे उपायों को शामिल करेगी। शिक्षा विभाग के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि हम ब्रेड की जगह चपाती देकर छात्रों के लिए स्वास्थ्यकर भोजन की आदत डाल रहे हैं। छात्रों के लिए सप्ताह में एक बार मिड डे मील व्यंजन सूची में फलों को भी शामिल किया जाएगा। इस योजना से राज्य के दो जिलों में 1500 स्कूलों के एक लाख से अधिक छात्रों को फायदा पहुंच रहा है।

राज्य सरकार पिछले साल खाद्य विपाकता के कुछ मामलों के बाद योजना में नई चीजें डाल रही है। छात्रों के लिए दूध, उपमा, इडली जैसे खाद्य पदार्थों को भी शामिल किया जा रहा है। अन्य उपायों में, सरकार ने योजना का विस्तार कर इसके दायरे में नौवीं और दसवीं कक्षा के छात्रों को भी शामिल किया है। इससे पहले आठवीं कक्षा तक के छात्र ही इस योजना के दायरे में थे। सरकार इस साल से भोजन की गुणवत्ता पर निगरानी रखने का अधिकार अपिभावाक, शिक्षक संघों को देगी। रसोई का निरीक्षण करने के लिए एक समिति बनाई गई है जिसमें शिक्षा विभाग, खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन निदेशालय के अधिकारी शामिल हैं।

Times of India, May 10, 2013, P.7

(Mid Day Meal)

Economic Times, May 14, 2013, P.11

जनहित में जारी
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

**राजीव गांधी किशोरी
सशक्तिकरण स्कीम**

सबला

सबला:

- » इस स्कीम का उद्देश्य निम्नलिखित सेवाएं प्रदान करके 11-18 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग की किशोरियों (पढ़ाई बीच में छोड़ चुकी किशोरियों पर विशेष ध्यान देते हुए) का सर्वांगीण विकास करना है :
 - पोषण तथा स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं
 - स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छता, पोषण, किशोरी प्रजनन तथा यौन स्वास्थ्य (आर्श) तथा परिवार एवं बाल देखरेख के प्रति जागरूकता
 - घरेलू कौशलों, जीवन कौशलों तथा व्यावसायिक कौशलों का प्रशिक्षण
 - स्कूल न जाने वाली किशोरियों को औपचारिक/अनौपचारिक शिक्षा की मुख्यधारा में लाना और
 - पुलिस स्टेशन, डाकघर, बैंक, प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र आदि जैसी मौजूदा सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के बारे में सूचना तथा मार्गदर्शन
- » इस स्कीम को प्रायोगिक आधार पर देश के 205 जिलों में कार्यान्वित किया गया है तथा इससे लगभग 1 करोड़ किशोरियां लाभान्वित हुई हैं।

Indian Express, May 16, 2013, P.23

(Scheme-Sabla)

**Rajiv Gandhi Scheme
for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls**

Sabla

Sabla:

- » The Scheme aims at all round development of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years (with focus on out of school adolescent girls) by providing them:
 - Nutrition and health services;
 - Awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, adolescent reproductive and sexual health (ARSH) and family & Child care;
 - Training for home based skills, life skills and vocational skills;
 - Mainstreaming of out-of-school adolescent girls into formal/non-formal education and
 - Information and guidance about existing public service such as police station, post office, bank, PHC etc.
- » Implemented in 205 districts on pilot basis across the country benefiting over 1 crore adolescent girls.

Issued in public interest by
Ministry of Women & Child Development
Government of India

Indian Express, May 16, 2013, P.23

(Scheme-Sabla)

Micro Credit, Macro Gains

When you are a daily wagger in a small town there is every danger of getting trapped in the vicious cycle of a hand-to-mouth existence and all its attendant troubles. How does a family break out, improve its lifestyle and ensure a better future for its children? Sakina Bibi and her husband Sanobar Sardar from Uttarpara in 24-Parganas, West Bengal did exactly that and in the process, made sure that their five children do not have to endure the hardships their parents faced.

Sakina Bibi was always talented and felt that given some seed-capital, she could branch out into producing and selling fabric and saris. Once she heard of the micro-credit scheme of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, she knew that her entrepreneurial dreams could be fulfilled.

She became a member of the Self Help Group (SHG), promoted by a local NGO where she learnt basic skills of running a business. Based on her good performance

and regular attendance in the SHG, her application for micro credit was immediately approved. She started her operations with a loan of Rs.10,000 disbursed to her by the West Bengal Minorities

Development & Finance Corporation (WBMDFC) under the Micro-Financing Scheme of NMDFC. She ran her business well and maintained a good record in repaying her loan. The following year, she applied for an additional loan and was granted Rs. 23,000 with which she diversified her business from saris to ready-made garments.

Sakina is an empowered businesswoman today. With the help of micro credit, her hard work and honesty, she has not only established and expanded her business but has also created employment for the people around her. She is seen as a role model by her group members.

Sakina is only one of the nearly 5,00,000 beneficiaries of term loans and micro-finance disbursed to the poorest of the poor among the minorities by 2012.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, runs micro-credit scheme through NMDFC. In order to empower the minorities through economic development, NMDFC provides concessional loans to them.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, runs this scheme through NMDFC. These loans are offered through the respective State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs). The SCAs, while identifying the beneficiaries and channelizing the lending, are also responsible for the recovery of loans.

Bharat ke is nirman
mein haq hai mera

Economic Times, May 17 , 2013, P.1

(Scheme-Micro-Credit)

Thanks to MGNREGA

No bonded Labour anymore

It is sometimes assumed that the benefits of MGNREGA are only in terms of providing employment to the jobless. Nothing could be further from truth. The impact of MGNREGA goes way beyond; in several cases, it has actually become a major instrument of social change in the area.

MGNREGA projects in the Pakur district in Jharkhand are good examples of the economic and social transformation that such projects can bring about in any area. A pond constructed in the Hiranpur block under MGNREGA has developed into a platform for social interaction between people of various backgrounds.

The landless SC, ST and BPL population which earlier worked as bonded labour on farms of rich land lords has become free from their clutches owing to MGNREGA projects.

Social and religious events are held there regularly in which all participate

together. This has started breaking the centuries' old walls between castes and classes. Strictly from the economic perspective, the pond has brought prosperity to many through fishing and other related activities that now flourish in the vicinity.

The siphon system of irrigation in Pakur developed under MGNREGA is another commendable example which can easily be replicated in other locations with a similar uneven terrain. Irrigation has improved farming output and brought about considerable prosperity.

In comparison to the past, today they get higher wages and hence better living standards. They enjoy

better health, good clothing and improved dietary habits.

The MGNREGA, with its legal framework and rights-based approach, aims at enhancing livelihood security by providing up to one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Under MGNREGA, an estimated Rs 1.28 lac crores has already been disbursed directly as wage payments to rural households and about five crore households have been provided with employment every year since 2008.

Operational in 626 districts of the country, MGNREGA, under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is one of the most radical schemes of the Government of India in the last decade. It now provides employment to 25 per cent of India's rural households.

Bharat ke is nirman
mein haq hai mera

Indian Express, May 14, 2013, P.1

(Scheme-MGNREGA)

Siksha Pahunchi Dwar Dwar: Education for all

On Gandhi Jayanti 2005,

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), a residential school for girls in Bocha, Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Four of them went on to complete their schooling till Class X and

Their school not only provided them free schooling, boarding, lodging and books but also a monthly stipend of Rs. 200 each for other expenses. These girls are now role models for others from their background.

Why is this so special?

are musahars, a community within which female literacy is less than 2%. The other two are physically handicapped due to polio they had contracted years ago; one is on crutches and the other is in a wheelchair. One of the two belongs to a Scheduled Caste and the other to a Scheduled Tribe. In short, all disadvantaged backgrounds where education for girls is an exception, not a rule.

social and physical challenges to go through with their education.

Their efforts must, of course, be lauded and celebrated. So also, the efforts of the rest of the 50,000

children in 391 hostels attached to various schools in remote and sparsely

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan program, the Government of India provides educational support to nearly 20 crore children in about 14 lakh schools in the country with special focus on disadvantaged sections such as SC/ST and minorities, particularly girls.

populated, areas that benefit under the Ministry of Human Resource Development's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Program.

Under this program, the government of India provides educational support to nearly 20 crore children in about 14 lakh schools in the country with a special focus on disadvantaged sections such as SC/ST and minorities, particularly girls.

Nearly 3.6 lakh girls are studying in over 3500 KGBVs which are residential schools for girls in class VI to VIII in the educationally backward blocks of India. Of them 29% are SCs, 26% STs, 26% OBCs, 9% Muslims and 10% belong to BPL families.

Two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys by NCERT reveal improvement in the overall learning levels. The overall difference in achievement between boys and girls as well as between urban and rural students has reduced.

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Bharat ke is nirman
mein haq hai mera

Pioneer, May 15, 2013, P.1
(Programme-Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan)

Government of Tamil Nadu

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ

- 1.2 lakh Solar Powered Green Houses at a cost of Rs.2,160 crores
- Development works at a cost of Rs.1,430 crores under "THAI" Scheme
- Renovation of 12,796 Integrated Women Sanitary Complexes at a cost of Rs.170 crores
- Road improvement works at a cost of Rs.1,500 crores
- Plastic roads at a cost of Rs.154 crores
- Rs.200 crores towards Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme
- 40,000 Solar street lamps at a cost of Rs.105 crores
- Pudhu Vaazhvu Project extended to 1,661 Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs.950 crores
- Rs.8,062 crore credit linkage to SHGs through banks
- Poverty Alleviation through Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission at a cost of Rs.181 crores

ADI DRAVIDAR & TRIBAL WELFARE

- Rs.42 crores to avoid drop outs of girls and continue education
- Integrated Tribal Development Scheme at a cost of Rs.50 crores
- Toilet facilities in 779 Adi Dravidar Welfare schools at a cost of Rs.39 crores
- Improvements to 1,080 hostels at a cost of Rs.83 crores
- Educational assistance for students beyond 10th std at a cost of Rs.761.05 crores

SCHOOL EDUCATION

"Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011" published in the Gazette

Special incentive of Rs.667 crores to 41 lakh students to avoid dropouts

Four sets of uniforms free of cost for 47 lakh students at a

New Indian Express, May 16, 2013, P.23

Women are not 'victims'

Activists raise concern over the stereotyping of women as 'victims' instead of addressing vital issues in a policy draft for women put out by the Maharashtra government

Amruta Byatnal

Even as Maharashtra took the seemingly progressive step of launching the third women's policy draft in March this year, activists across the State have raised concerns about the government's 'victimhood' approach, while ignoring the reasons of poverty, patriarchy and power dimensions as the root cause of women's issues.

Women's organisations from various parts of the State have taken objection to the portrayal of women across the policy document that allegedly reinforces gender stereotypes.

Stating that the policy does not address the larger issues that lead to women's suffering, activist Kiran Moghe of All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) said, "It does not recognise women's exploitation as a larger structural or systemic issue. The State continues to see women's issues as 'women's problems'. An issue observed across the policy is that of referring to women as victims or *pidit*. The policy document typifies women as needy of welfare. So women are portrayed as victims and thus deserving of a piece in the development pie." Coming together under the network of Stree Mukti Andolan Samparka Samiti, Ms. Moghe and representatives of other organisations have sent recommendations to the State's Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The policy is silent on the more pressing needs of the State, Medha Kale, a member of the network said. "For example, it is non committal on the reinstating of the women's commission and its democratic functioning." The post has been lying vacant for the last four years, and reportedly mired in political debate between the ruling Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress alliance in the State.

Explaining a contentious example, Sneha Gole another member of the network, stated that the policy uses the term "adult unmarried women" (*praudh kumarika*) for schemes meant for older women. "The assumption here is that all women have to be married by a certain age and those who cross that age would be referred to as adult unmarried women. So here we still function within the framework of family and marriage as the final goals to be achieved for women. Anything outside of the family framework is treated as a problem to be addressed."

Stating that the policy fails



SHE TOO LABOURS: Women's issues need to be put in the context of social determinants such as caste, class and patriarchy.

PHOTO: PAUL NORONHA

to set a context for the State, Seema Kulkarni of the Samiti said, "Firstly the policy comes across as a standalone document with no forward or backward linkages. It does not take stock of the achievements of the past policies and neither does it mention the gender indicators which it wants to improve upon."

Another complaint is that the objectives of the policy are very general and do not respond to the changing contexts and the current situation of women. "It does not refer to any current data on women at the State level, for example, increasing caste violence, informalisation of labour in agriculture and otherwise, lowered sex ratio, honour killings, conditions of waste-pickers, sex workers, etc. Thus a very generic understanding of women's concerns would lead to providing generic solutions," Ms. Kulkarni said.

The policy states that 10 per cent of the funds will be allocated from the revenue that accrues to the State. Disagreeing with the manner of allocations, Ms. Moghe said, "The section on gender budget shows a rather limited understanding of what gender budgeting is all about. Besides 10 per cent is an *ad hoc* figure. Ideally it should have stated a very broad ball park figure of some 30 per cent or so, since the State would need to prepare a budget based on the policy statement that it has prepared."

Medha Kale of Tathapi stated that women's right to health as an individual in her own right and not simply as a mother, wife or daughter is not recognised in the policy. "The present policy however states the importance of women's health more because it impacts the health of the

child and the society at large." Ms. Kale also underlined this as the reason why there is no mention of the social determinants of women's health: poverty, caste, patriarchy as leading to poor nutrition, lack of access to medical care, etc in this section.

She believes that by putting forth "hollow" promises such as a counselling centre per public health centre or every district will have a women's hospital, the policy or the State absolves itself of providing basic primary health care for all. "It shows disconnect with the ground reality wherein there are no well-functioning PHCs themselves or not stocked with basic medicines — iron and calcium for example for women. Rather than sensationalising the policy by giving everything "women special" there is a need for a more rational and sensitive health service in the State with focus on women, Dalits, tribals and other socially and economically discriminated sections," she said.

Swati Kamble of the International Alliance for Dalit Women's Rights stated that the policy disregards issues of diversity, historical injustice on oppressed social groups. "The historically oppressed social groups, the Dalits, the 'former lowest castes' and constitutionally termed as Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Nomadic Tribe (NT) and De-notified Tribe (DNT) women are sidelined if not fully ignored," she has said, in a letter to the State's Women and Child Development Minister, Varsha Gaikwad. Stating that the policy mentions no provision for the socio-economic upliftment of Dalit women, the letter says: "We strongly recommend that a Adivasi

and SC (Arthik) Vikas Mahamandal (Tribal and Scheduled Castes economic welfare board) be proposed in the present policy draft, to improve socio-economic status of tribal and SC women and to uplift them to the level of socio-economically developed women."

"Most importantly the policy misses the point of the denial of constitutional right to political participation of women. Therefore, we recommend that political reservation for women and within it proportional reservation for SC, ST, NT and DNT women should be included in this policy document," Ms. Kamble stated.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, although the women's policy draft includes transgenders, it suggests 'preventive measures' for stopping people from being transgender. It suggests that this can be done through monitoring pregnant mothers and hormonal levels, a measure that activists and psychiatrists have slammed. A member of an organisation for sex workers and transgenders stated that the policy shows a lack of sensitivity and understanding of the issue. "One of the reasons cited for being a transgender is "under too much influence of women" or the reason for being transgender as a 'distortion', which reflects the level of empathy among the government for people's choices," she said.

The policy draft was kept open to the public for two months — till May 8 — since the launch. This week, women's organisations across the State will be sending their recommendations to the Ministry with the hope that the State recognises the roots and reasons of women's issues, and through that the importance of women themselves.

Cos Learning to Deal with Harassment Cases

Slowly but steadily, India Inc is trying to get proactive in handling a problem that most preferred to hush up till recently

SREERADHA D BASU, DEVINA SENGUPTA & SAUMYA BHATTACHARYA
MUMBAI | BANGALORE | NEW DELHI

For 100,000 employees in the group, ICICI gets 60-odd sexual harassment complaints in a year. Of this, 30-40% are found to be true. India's second-largest bank by assets does not insist on absolute proof when it comes to allegations of sexual harassment. In case of circumstantial evidence, the person is

asked to resign. If there is stronger proof, the person is sacked.

ICICI is among a few companies that are pre-emptive in dealing with a problem that is real and exists across corporate India. Most Indian companies have an ostrich-like approach to the problem and would rather not talk about the problem.

Even those that are relatively proactive, admit instances of sexual harassment and office relationships are a minefield of sorts,

especially those of the boss-subordinate variety as in the Phaneesh Murthy case.

"A boss-reportee relationship is taboo and a relationship between peers is fine as long as it does not impact office work. Extra-marital relationships on the other hand are not kosher anywhere in the world," says TV Mohandas Pai, chairman of Manipal Global Education and a former board member of Infosys. "There should be zero tolerance for undue advantage taken in a boss-reportee relationship

or sexual harassment of any kind," he says. "When you are in an organisation where you are responsible for people, it is a custodial position. Consequently, senior leadership has to see their jobs as custodians," says K Ramkumar, executive director, ICICI Bank. "It's a breach of trust when there is a case like this (referring to all such cases), not just to the people, but to the institution you are working for."

Double-Edged Sword, Feel Some → 5

Sexual harassment @ Work Double-Edged Sword, Feel Some

FROM PAGE 1

This is not about morality or ethics. This is basic. If you do anything that belies the trust, you deserve the harshest punishment," says Ramkumar.

Sexual harassment at the workplace, some say, is a double-edged sword. "Women do face a lot of harassment at work. It could be in the form of rude jokes or abusive language or more... That's not to say, though, that women are always in the right. Some can be vindictive when a relationship does not work out, or they realise that they have been manipulated. There are also some women who manipulate the situation," says Parul Tank, consultant psychiatrist, Fortis Hospitals, Mumbai.

Gender and work-life experts say most sexual harassment cases have their beginning in innocuous workplace relationships and office romances. "Around 50-60% of sexual harassment cases have an angle of office romance in them," says Nirmala Menon, founder of Interweave Consultancy, a firm that works on work-life issues in the corporate world. "These include cases when one of the partners has been snubbed, given a 'no' for an answer or there has been a break-up."

That's the reason the likes of P&G, Coca-Cola, Essar, PwC, RPG group and others have detailed policies around office and reporting relationships, and comprehensive codes to prevent sexual harassment.

Says Rahul Taneja, senior vice-president and head-corporate HR, Essar Group, "India Inc can no longer afford to push such episodes under the carpet. This is a hygiene requirement and brings the whole organisation into disrepute."

Essar is recasting its sexual harassment prevention policy by incorporating it in its code of ethics, in the light of the bill passed by Parliament. "In 2010, we brought in a lot of granularity and specified advances seen as demeaning," says Taneja, adding, "Though the incidences such as these are rare at Essar, we did take an affirmative action in 2009 and 2011, where two senior executives were asked to go after being proven guilty on sexual harassment issues."

Companies such as Hindustan Unilever, P&G and Coca-Cola deal with harassment of any kind with zero tolerance. Coca-Cola has a host of policies, including a code to prevent sexual harassment, applicable to both sexes. "Other measures include focus groups with employees, breakfast and lunch meetings of the senior management with employees, skip levels (senior management team meets employees of a function or department without the department head) that help employees talk about any problems openly and pre-empting a potential situation," the Coca-Cola spokesperson said.

"In Unilever, all sexual harassment complaints are investigated by the Code Committee, the designated authority to resolve all local code issues, headed by a senior lady manager of the company. There is zero tolerance towards such cases. All code breaches, including such cases, are periodically reviewed by the audit committee of the board, comprising only independent directors," a HUL spokesperson said.

"The aggrieved employee can speak with the immediate supervisor, or if supervisor is the source of the misconduct, speak with the skip-level supervi-

sor or the HR manager or the country code officer. Alternatively, the employee can call the Ethics Hotline to lodge a complaint on an anonymous and confidential basis," the spokesperson added.

CODE ON BOSS-SUBORDINATE RELATIONSHIP

The RPG Group does not encourage a relationship if there is a conflict of interest. "So a boss-subordinate relationship or between an HR team member and another colleague is not allowed because in the second case, the HR employee is in a position to influence appraisals. Also, in case of extra-marital relationships, we follow the same procedure," says Arvind Agrawal, president-HR and chief executive, corporate development. He adds that employees who work in different companies under the RPG Group have married and if they are in the same company, they are given a transfer.

Audit and consulting major PwC has a dating policy to ensure couples do not share the same function and reporting line. "If this happens or there is a reporting relationship, the individuals involved are moved to different teams," says Mark Driscoll, leader-human capital at PwC India.

Some entities such as the Future Group and Panasonic have no specific policy on dealing with office relationships, though they have a sexual harassment policy in place. "We are not averse to office relationships as long as it does not affect work," says a Future Group spokesperson. "Unless an employee reports harassment, in which case it is taken up very seriously, we feel that relationships between employees are their personal matter. However, they need to maintain official decorum," said a Panasonic spokesperson.

On HR policies across companies, especially in IT and banking, Saundarya Rajesh, founder-president, AVTAR Career Creators, says, "In case of a boss and subordinate relationship, if there is a possibility of influence, or they work on similar accounts then most firms frown upon it and both parties are called for a meeting. The company puts it on record that they have had a discussion and this behaviour is against the rules," she says.

Companies also want to stay away from tainted candidates. "I have had clients withdraw offer to candidates when there's been an issue in the past. Why bring such candidates, companies say," points out Gita Dang, founder, Talent Advisory Services, a boutique executive search firm that focuses on technology hiring.

"There has been a higher level of understanding and awareness about women's safety issues in India, mostly on account of some recent acts of crime," according to Vikram Shroff, head of HR law at Nishith Desai. In addition, employers have started re-looking their policies and practices as a result of the new law on prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace that was notified in April 2013.

"Employers are laying more emphasis on providing a harassment-free working environment. They have also been involving senior and experienced members as part of the committee to investigate harassment complaints or allegations. Some multinational companies also require their employees to make adequate disclosures of any relationships with co-workers as part of their policy and with a view to prohibit intra-office relationships," says Shroff.

(With inputs from Ratna Bhushan & Sagar Malviya)

5.3 Legislation/Bills/Court orders (Court Order-Private Schools/ Register- FIRs / Bill-Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill/ CLPRA Amendments)

Child labour: Need to bring in change

By Kathyayini Chamara

A quarter century after the passage of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act (CLPRA) in 1986, the Union cabinet has approved long-required amendments to it. This Act, drafted and championed by a prominent civil society organisation, succeeded in taking the fight against child labour a quarter century behind. Thus the Act, while claiming to be based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), contained the totally misinterpreted and damaging provision allowing child labour in supposed 'non-hazardous' occupations on the plea that, given the current economic circumstances of families, a child should be allowed to work.

Nowhere does the UNCRC support a child's 'right to work'. UNCRC Article 32(1) requires states to protect children from economic exploitation and any work that is likely to interfere with their education, which should be based on equal opportunity. The relevant international provision is the ILO Convention No 138 which requires the minimum age for general employment to be 15 years, reducible to 14 in developing countries. Articles 18(2) and 19 of the UNCRC add the proviso that where parents are unable to provide the rights of children, the state should assist them in performing their child-rearing responsibilities.

Convenient choice

The government however found it convenient to accept the formulations of the civil society organisation and did not incorporate these salutary provisions of the UNCRC into the Act. Thus in violation of all precepts of a humane society whose first duty would be to look after its children, the CLPRA did not fix a minimum age for employment and ludicrously allowed even a toddler to work and fend for itself. Even all species of animals feed and care for their young.

The CLPRA fixed the age of 14 years only for work in supposedly 'hazardous' occupations, whose list did not cover even 15 per cent of child labourers. The occupations where children could work included agriculture and animal husbandry where 85 per cent children were engaged. So which children did the Act protect? Later, the ILO through

its Convention 182 on the 'worst forms of child labour', fixed the more stringent 18 years as the minimum age for 'hazardous work'. It is gratifying that, though a quarter century late, the Cabinet has accepted to bring the CLPRA in line with at least the minimum provisions of international law as prescribed by ILO - of 14 years as the minimum age for general employment and 18 years for hazardous work.

However, it certainly is desirable for the country to go beyond these minimal provisions under international law and extend the age for compulsory education, and the corresponding age for general employment in a phased manner to 16 (Class X) and 18 (Class XII), as has been done by several progressive countries. But civil society organisations are claiming that 18 years is the minimum required under international law for completion of compulsory education and for general employment because "the UNCRC defines the child as any person below 18 years". Nowhere does the UNCRC say education should be compulsory till 18 years. The minimum required under Article 28 (a) of UNCRC is to make primary (elementary) education 'free and compulsory', and under Article 28(b) to make secondary education - comprising general and vocational education - 'free' only, but not 'compulsory'.

The demand that even secondary education should be made compulsory till 18 years needs to be accompanied by a concurrent demand that it should also provide a vocational stream. One witnesses annually 30-40 per cent children - from all classes and not just the poor - failing the Class X and Class XII exams indicating that their aptitude is for skills and not for academics.

Without the option of a vocational stream during secondary education, millions of these youth would find themselves nowhere in life at age 18, at the end of 12 years of education - unskilled to take up any work and also incapable of pursuing further academic studies. A vocational stream, in addition to the general, as part of compulsory secondary education would also alter the current paradoxical situation, where the country has among the largest youth force in the world and yet the greatest dearth of skilled employable workers.

HC: Unaided pvt schools' info must be accessible to public

ADITI GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday ordered that unaided private schools will remain in the purview of Right to Information and their details will be accessible to public.

After hearing the final arguments, the court disposed off the petition filed by Delhi State Public School Management Association in January 2011 challenging Central Information Centre's order. Justice Rajiv Shakdher upheld an interim order by the court which was issued in December the same year. It was a setback for private schools as the court also supported CIC's order.

Upholding the interim

order, Justice Rajiv Shakdher on Thursday directed private schools to put up the information on number of seats available in all classes, total vacancies, number of seats in general category, number of seats in economically weak category (EWS) and total applications received under EWS quota on school notice board and get it uploaded on the Directorate of Education website for public use. However, the court exempted schools from providing their financial records to the DoE, which the CIC order had directed.

This decision will impact 2,000 private schools and 500 aided schools and will relieve the parents of the stress of running

from pillar to post to enquire about the seat availability in schools. In 2010, the Central Information Commission (CIC) had directed unaided schools to make all their information available to the DoE, including the financial details, which could be uploaded on the website. The interim order by the high court had upheld all the directions by CIC except the one that asked the schools to reveal financial information.

The court has also upheld CIC's decision that the "Directorate of Education shall upload on its website, details of budgetary allocation and management of private schools. This information shall also be updated every month."

Pioneer, May 3, 2013, P.2

(Court Order-Private Schools)

THROUGH THE LENS

Save the kids

As the world commemorates over 120 years of International Labour Day, the problem of child labour stares India squarely in the eye.

The major occupations engaging child labour are pan, bidi and cigarettes (21 per cent), construction (17 per cent), domestic workers (15 per cent) and spinning and weaving (11 per cent), according to Census 2011.

The camera captures an urgent plea by children seeking back their childhood.

A Bill has been introduced in Parliament to amend the Child Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1986.

"The Bill, when passed, will make the provisions of Child Labour Act more stringent and also link the age of the prohibition with the age of children under Right to Free and Compulsory Edu-



cation Act," said the Union Labour Minister. "The Act, it is openly flouted and children are found abundantly engaged in the labour force on the streets and even in homes."

Despite the presence of

Hindu, May 1, 2013, P. 8

(CLPRA)

Deccan Herald, May 7, 2013, P.11

(CLPRA Amendments)

Tribunal comes to the rescue of elderly woman

By **Prati Nath Jha**

NEW DELHI, 5 MAY: In a time when family values are at stake and the most suffering lots, senior citizens, are forced to live at the mercy of their wards in a traumatic condition, a Maintenance Tribunal (Central Delhi District) has come to the rescue of such a woman senior citizen ordering her son and daughter-in-law to restore the accommodation to her in the original abode.

The three-member tribunal (comprising Sukhbir Chand, Meenakshi Mitra and Bansh Raj) ordered that the tribunal is of the opinion for safeguarding the interest of senior citizens to be protected as envisaged under 'The Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007'.

The petitioner, Mrs Zeenath R Singh, a resident of Christian colony, Darya Ganj, had stated that she was being harassed and ill-treated by her son, Amit Daniel Singh and daughter-in-law, Monika Singh. Both of them used to torture her even physically. She along with her husband Samuel R K Singh was forced to leave the rented house and took shelter in an Old Age home being run by the Christian society in Fatehpur Beri. The respondents had even taken away their entire belongings/household things of her. Later he died, but she continued to live in the old age home.

The tribunal after perusal of the facts and circumstances ordered that the petitioner, Ms Singh to live in the portion of the rented house, where she lived earlier before moving

'All her belongings/household items, which had been forcibly taken away by the respondents will be returned immediately. They will behave properly with the petitioner in a respectful manner. The respondents will take care of her in respect of fooding, clothing and medical also and ensure no inconvenience is caused to her in future'

to the old age home.

"All her belongings/household items, which had been forcibly taken away by the respondents will be returned immediately. They will behave properly with the petitioner in a respectful manner. The respondents will take care of her in respect of fooding, clothing and medical also and ensure no inconvenience is caused to her in future," read the order.

The tribunal has also asked the SHO, Chandni Mahal PS, Darya Ganj to ensure compliance of its orders and send action taken report to the tribunal within a fortnight. The SHO will also ensure safety and protection of life of the old aged petitioner and will depute the beat constable or any other police official to visit her at least to ensure that she is living a peaceful life.

"Further under sub-section (k) of the Act, the term 'Welfare' has also been defined which means the provision for food, health care, recreation centres and other amenities necessary

for the senior citizens," read the order.

The object the enactment of the 'Maintenance and Welfare of parents and senior citizens act in the changed scenario of withering of the joint family system in India and is to protect aged people from living a destitute life.

Sub-clause-1 of section-4 envisages that a senior citizen (including parents), who is unable to maintain himself/herself from his/her own earnings or out of property owned by him shall be entitled for maintenance from their children under section-2 of this act.

Statesman, May 6, 2013, P.1

Cabinet split on women-friendly divorce bill

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Nearly three years after it introduced a key bill in Parliament to make the cumbersome process of divorce easier for women, internal differences cropped up within the government on Wednesday over its provisions related to the rights of wives share in marital property in divorce cases.

Following differences between ministries, the matter has been referred to a Group of Ministers, ensuring a further delay, before fresh changes in this bill can be taken up in the Rajya Sabha.

Titled the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, it seeks to make "irretrievable breakdown of marriage", as a new ground for seeking divorce and proposes to do away with the

prevailing mandatory waiting period before moving a joint motion for ending the marriage by mutual consent.

There were no differences in the cabinet on these new women-friendly provisions for seeking divorce, but there were divergent opinions on whether a wife should be entitled to get a share in the property inherited by her husband in case they decide to seek a divorce. The

women and child development ministry also wanted exclusion of the provision which seeks to entitle wives to have a share in the property acquired by their husbands before marriage.

The panel discussed the amendments for over two hours. The GoM would examine the clauses over the next few days and the Bill will come back before the Cabinet, said finance minister P Chidambaram.

Hindustan Times, May 2, 2013, P.13

(Bill-Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill)

Courts can't lose sight of social impact of crime against women, says Supreme Court

J. Venkatesan

New Delhi: Offences against women require exemplary punishment from trial courts and High Courts, the Supreme Court has held.

A Bench of Justices P. Sathasivam and M.Y. Eqbal said: "In justice delivery system, courts are conscious and mindful of the proportion between the rigour of offence committed and the penalty imposed as also its impact on society in general and the victim of the crime in particular. Social impact of the crime, where it relates to offences against women, cannot be lost sight of and *per se* requires exemplary treatment. Public abhorrence of the crime needs reflection through imposition of appropriate sentence by the court."

In the instant case, Kumar caused the death of his sister-in-law, Vijayalakshmi of Yercaud after raping her. He also killed her 13-month-old baby and later burnt both bodies. The trial court awarded life sentence to him and this was upheld

Life sentence upheld for rape and murder of sister-in-law; accused also killed her 13-month-old child

by the Madras High Court.

Kumar, in his appeal, took the stand that there was no direct evidence to connect him with the offence and that the confession he made to his neighbour was not admissible in evidence.

Writing the judgment, Justice Sathasivam said: "The law is well settled as to what extent extra-judicial confession can be relied on. If the same is voluntary and made in a fit state of mind, it can be relied upon along with other materials. It is true that extra-judicial confession is a weak type of evidence and depends upon the nature of circumstances like the time when the confession was made and the credibility of the witnesses. It is seen from the evidence of prosecution witnesses that the appellant-accused had the motive, namely, he had a lustful eye towards his sister-in-law, which had

been proved beyond doubt. An overall assessment of the evidence of the prosecution witnesses clearly establishes the circumstances against the accused in a cogent manner."

The Bench said: "The High Court, while analysing the entire prosecution case and the different versions, appreciated the efforts made by the team headed by A.G. Pon Manickavel, then Superintendent of Police, who personally investigated the matter and brought all relevant and acceptable materials before the court of law. As appreciated by the High Court, we also express our appreciation of the team headed by Mr. Manickavel for the tireless investigation in presenting the truth before the Majesty of Law. We are in entire agreement with the conclusion arrived at by the trial court and affirmed by the High Court. Consequently, we dismiss the appeal as being devoid of merits.

"Though the trial court imposed life imprisonment which was upheld by the High Court in view of the gruesome act of rape followed by double murder, we are of the view that the authorities having power of remission cannot pass any such order lightly without adhering to various principles enunciated by this court," it said.

Hindu, May 16, 2013, P. 13

SC directs states to register FIRs on missing children

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a landmark decision for the protection of children, the Supreme Court has directed all states to register FIRs within a month on the issue of missing children.

The apex court passed the order after listening to the detailed arguments on 10 May.

According to government figures, during 2009 to 2011 a total of 2,36,014 children went missing and 75,808 are still untraced. However, only 34,899 FIRs have been registered.

The decision came on a petition filed by a child rights group, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, on the issue of missing children and trafficking. A bench headed by Chief Justice Altamas Kabir and comprising Justices Vikramajit Sen and Sharad Arvind Bobde issued the direction that in cases where first information report has not been lodged, it should be registered with a month.

The apex court also held that all cases of missing children across the country to be registered as a cognizable offence and investigated.

The bench said in all missing children cases there will be a presumption of kidnapping or trafficking unless proven otherwise. Each police station should have at least one juvenile welfare officer to investi-

gate crimes against children, it added. Also, the National Legal Services Authority is directed to appoint one para-legal volunteer at every police station to keep a watch on the manner in which complaints about offences against children are dealt with.

The Supreme Court also said that a website should be developed to create a network between the central child protection unit and all state child protection units as well as district and city protection units. This will help in creating a data bank for crime against children. It added that a standard operating procedure must be developed to handle such cases.

The bench directed the state authorities to arrange for adequate shelter homes for the recovered children who do not have any place to go for the first three months.

Senior advocate H S Phoolka said, "Every hour, 10 children go missing. Of these only one case is registered and investigated. There is no hope for the poor parents whose children go missing."

Kailash Satyarthi, founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan said, "It is a watershed moment not only in our three decade fight in restoring childhood but has also brought a fresh lease of hope."

Deccan Herald, May 22, 2013, P.9

(Court Order-Register FIRs)

5.5 Schemes - Miscellaneous (Urban Health Mission/ Domestic Workers)

Urban Health Mission to cover 7.75 crore people

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Rs. 22,507-crore National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) that seeks to address healthcare challenges in towns and cities with focus on urban poor.

The scheme will now be introduced as a sub-mission under the National Health Mission (NHM). The mission will be implemented in 779 cities and towns, each with a population of more than 50,000, and cover over 7.75 crore people.

The NUHM aims to improve the health status of the urban population in general, and the poor and other disadvantaged sections in particular, by facilitating equitable access to quality health care through a revamped primary public health care system, targeted outreach services and involvement of the community and urban local bodies.

The NUHM will be on the lines of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry's flagship National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in 2005 to address the health challenges of rural India.

The interventions under this sub-mission will aim to

result in the reduction of the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), universal access to reproductive health care and the convergence of all health-related interventions

Under the scheme, the government proposes to set up one Urban Primary Health Centre for a population of 50,000-60,000, one Urban Community Health Centre for five to six urban Primary Health Centres in big cities, an Auxiliary Nursing Mid-

wives (ANM) for a population of 10,000 and an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) (community link worker) for 200 to 500 households.

The Central government is to provide a share of Rs. 16,955 crore toward the estimated cost of NUHM for five years - Rs. 22,507 crore.

While the Centre will fund 75 per cent of the mission and the State 25 per cent, the funding ratio for North Eastern States and special category States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh

and Uttarakhand will be 90:10. The existing mechanism and systems created and functioning under NRHM will be strengthened

to meet the needs of NUHM and city-wise implementation plans will be prepared based on baseline surveys and felt needs. The urban local bodies will be fully involved in the implementation of the scheme.

The scheme had been pending for a long time but not cleared due to shortage of financial resources. Even now, funds earmarked for it in the current year (2013-14) are abysmally low at Rs. one crore only.

At present, there is no dedicated health delivery system for the urban poor. The health indicators among them are also bad and nutrition levels of urban children living in slums are alarmingly low.

Estimates have shown that one in 10 children born in the slums did not see their fifth birthday while less than half were immunised.

Hindu, May 2, 2013, P. 11

(Urban Health Mission)

National policy for domestic workers under question

press trust of india

NEW DELHI, 19 MAY: A new policy to give certain rights to domestic workers has run into hurdles with questions being raised by certain ministries over provisions like formation of trade unions.

Apprehensions have been expressed that if domestic workers are allowed to set up unions, it could lead to law and order situation and other complications.

The National Policy for Domestic Workers was discussed last week at a Cabinet meeting where differing views came to the fore. It was then decided that further deliberations were needed to evolve a common position.

The policy seeks to give the workers the right over minimum wages

paid leave and regulated working hours among others. It also proposes to bestow on them the right to form trade unions.

The passage of the policy will not only help India fulfil one of the ILO conventions on better working conditions for domestic workers, but also place it among a handful of countries such as Uruguay, the Philippines and Mauritius which have ratified the convention.

Sources said the Union Cabinet suggested studying the policies adopted by these countries in detail before arriving at a decision.

According to estimates, 6.4 million domestic workers stand to benefit out of the policy. Besides, its approval could follow with amendment to some of the existing laws such as Minimum Wages Act, Trade Union Act and Employees Compensation Act.

The proposal, recommended by

National Advisory Council in April 2009, aims at bringing domestic workers under the purview of existing labour laws, thus providing them all the rights and protection available to other workers.

NAC Chairperson Sonia Gandhi had written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh saying that the proposed policy should ensure remuneration without sex discrimination and protection against sexual harassment at the work place to the target group.

The Labour and Employment Ministry had set up a task-force to frame the policy spelling out a comprehensive social coverage such as paid annual leave and sick leave, protection from sexual harassment and social security coverage for benefit of the domestic workforce.

The NAC had suggested coverage for domestic workers under social security as provided in the Unorganised Sector Social Security Act, 2008. It had also suggested safe working environment and protection from accidents.

Statesman, May 20, 2013, P.4

(Domestic Workers)

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