

3. Women/ Gender Issues

3.1 Women Empowerment

सरकार ने महिलाओं के लिए कई महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रम शुरू किए : कटारिया

खेल राज्यमंत्री ने महिलाओं को बांटी सिलाई मशीनें

गुडगांव, 30 सितंबर (इप)। हरियाणा के खेल राज्यमंत्री सुखबीर कटारिया ने कहा है कि सरकार ने प्रदेश को महिलाओं को स्वावलम्बी बनाने के लिए कई महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रम शुरू किए हैं। यही कारण है कि आज चाहे शिक्षा का क्षेत्र हो या स्वास्थ्य तथा खेल जगत की बात हो, महिलाओं ने हर क्षेत्र में अपने कौशल का परिचय दिया है। श्री कटारिया ने यह उद्गार आज गुडगांव गांव स्थित शिव वाटिका में शिव शक्ति महिला सेवा समिति द्वारा आयोजित नि:शुल्क विशाल नेत्र जांच शिविर का शुभारंभ करने के उपरांत व्यक्त किए। खेल मंत्री ने इस मौके पर गरीब वर्ग की महिलाओं को सिलाई मशीनें भी वितरित कीं। उन्होंने कहा कि जिस प्रकार से शिव शक्ति महिला सेवा समिति की ओर से यह नि:शुल्क नेत्र जांच शिविर आयोजित किया गया है, ऐसे पुण्य कार्य में समाज के अन्य लोगों को भी आगे आना चाहिए तथा लोगों को सामाजिक कार्यों में बढ़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लेना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि हमें निस्वार्थ भाव से समाज के कल्याण के लिए कार्य करने चाहिए। आज

सरकार हर वर्ग के लोगों को साथ लेकर चल रही है। सरकार चाहती है कि महिलाएं कम उर्ते तथा युवा पीढ़ी शिक्षा के साथ-साथ खेल व अन्य क्षेत्रों में आगे आकर अपने समाज, राज्य व देश का नाम रोशन करें। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार खेल के क्षेत्र में खिलाड़ियों को काफी प्रोत्साहन दे रही है और राज्य सरकार की खेल दितीपी नीति के कारण युवाओं में आब खेलों के प्रति काफी उत्साह है और उनमें कुछ कर गुजरने का ऊर्जा है। इस अवसर पर खेल मंत्री ने अपने स्वीच्छक को से शिव शक्ति महिला सेवा समिति को 2 लाख 51 हजार रूपय की राशि देने की घोषणा की। इस कार्यक्रम के बाद, खेल मंत्री ने हैप्पी मोडल स्कूल शीतला कॉलेजी में हेल्थ चेक-अप कैम्प का उद्घाटन किया। इस स्वास्थ्य जांच शिविर में लगभग 400 लोगों ने अपने स्वास्थ्य की जांच करवाई। इस मौके पर उनके साथ शिव शक्ति महिला सेवा समिति की अध्यक्ष श्रीमती सुलक्षणा कटारिया, गीता नर्सिंग होम के निदेशक डा. सुन्दर दलाल, विद्या डबास, धर्मपाल, लक्ष्मी नारायण डाबला, कामांडर शेरसिंह यादव व मनवन्ता सहित अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे।



रविवार को गुडगांव गांव स्थित शिव वाटिका में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में खेल राज्यमंत्री सुखबीर कटारिया गरीब महिलाओं को सिलाई मशीनें वितरित करते हुए।

Dainik Tribune, October 01, 2012, P.3

महिला सशक्तीकरण के मामले में भारत 115वें स्थान पर

मेलबर्न, 16 अक्टूबर (भाषा)। महिलाओं के आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण के लिहाज से भारत की स्थिति अच्छी नहीं है। इस मामले में किए गए एक सर्वे में 128 देशों की सूची में दक्षिण एशियाई देश 115वें स्थान पर हैं। सूची में सबसे ऊपर आस्ट्रेलिया है। उसके बाद क्रमशः नावे, स्वीडन तथा फिनलैंड का स्थान है। वहीं निचले पायदान पर यमन, पाकिस्तान, सूडान तथा चाड हैं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय परामर्श तथा प्रबंधन कंपनी यूज एंड कंपनी के इस शोध में भारत 115वें स्थान पर है। शोध रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारत दुनिया की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी आबादी वाला देश है। कुल वैश्विक प्रतिभा पूल में भारत की हिस्सेदारी 14 प्रतिशत है, जिसमें 55 लाख महिलाएं हर साल भारत के कार्यबल में शामिल होती हैं और ये उल्लेखनीय रूप से सफल हैं। शोध रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भले ही भारतीय महिलाएं विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सफल हैं, लेकिन आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण तथा पेशेवर सफलता के मामले में उनके समक्ष काफी चुनौतियां हैं। इसमें कहा गया है कि हालांकि ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था ने भारत में अपार संभावनाएँ पैदा की हैं, लेकिन इसके बावजूद कई महिलाएं सांस्कृतिक बाधाओं, लिंगभेद तथा संसाधनों के अभाव में अपनी क्षमता का पूर्ण उपयोग नहीं कर पातीं। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, 'देश में महिलाओं के संरक्षण के लिए भेदभाव

निरोधक कानून है, लेकिन उसका क्रियान्वयन सही तरीके से नहीं हो पाया है। हर साल महिलाओं से जुड़े लगभग 1,000 झूठी शान के लिए हत्या के मामले प्रकाश में आते हैं। इसमें कहा गया है, 'इसके अलावा बालिका भ्रूण हत्या, तेजाब से हमला, बलात्कार तथा यौन उत्पीड़न ऐसी चीजें हैं जो महिलाओं के सशक्तीकरण में बाधक हैं।' रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अगर भारत को आर्थिक वृद्धि की रफ्तार को बनाए रखनी है तो उसे महिलाओं के रास्ते में आने वाली इन बाधाओं को दूर करना होगा। 'थर्ड बिलियन इंडेक्स' नाम की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अगले एक दशक में दुनिया के कुल कार्यबल में एक अरब महिलाएँ शामिल होंगी।

Dainik Tribune, October 17, 2012, P.9

Bihar's moms choose college over hubby!

DHEERAJ KUMAR ■ PATNA

Although separated by distance, two women in Bihar's Sheikhpura district have a common cause — knowledge and academic success.

But with their husbands and in-laws standing in the way of their education dream, they have approached the district administration so that their errant relatives can be taken to task for denying them their right to learning and they, themselves, can enroll in college and continue their studies.

The parents of Neha Kumari and Priyanka had married them off before they could finish their studies. Each is the mother of a child.

When persuasion failed to work in favour of the duo, the two have approached the district magistrate of Sheikhpura during a Janata Durbar on Thursday.

Senior Deputy Collector (Public Grievance Cell) Jai Prakash Narain told *The Pioneer* that their complaints have been forwarded to the police station concerned. It is now the job of the police to convince the two families to let their daughters-in-law continue their studies.

As these are considered family matters, the Government usually does not extend support to the aggrieved significantly other than forwarding their cases to the police authorities.

Neha Kumari and Priyanka are residents of Mafo and Chordargah villages in Sheikhpura district, respectively. Neha got married when she was studying in the 10th standard while Priyanka tied the knot when she was studying in the 12th.

Initially surprised by their complaints on such an issue, district authorities assured them that the Government will sort out their problems immediately. Ever since one half of panchayat seats were reserved for them in the State, women have not looked back and do not hesitate to revolt against their husbands and in-laws to protect their rights, even taking their fights to a logical conclusion on several occasions.

Bihar, which was once ranked lowest in female literacy till 2001, has improved remarkably. Female literacy has jumped by 20 per cent, according to a latest survey.

Female literacy in the State now stands at 54 per cent while Rajasthan at 53 per cent is now at the bottom of the list.

The turnaround in female literacy in the State is largely attributed to the Mukhya Mantri Cycle Yojana of 2007 in which nearly nine lakh bicycles were distributed to school-going girl students in the State.

Bihar, which was once ranked lowest in female literacy has improved remarkably. Female literacy has jumped by 20 per cent



The Pioneer, Oct 13, 2012, P.6

'Women should take ACTIVE PART IN POLITICS'



David Gainer, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate, speaks at the video conference meet held at Stella Maris College | R SATISH BABU

by Susanna Myrtle Lazarus

Chennai: Jyothimani Sennimalai is special. She contested and won the panchayat elections when she was just 21. All that she wanted was water supply for Dalits in her village. Now, 16 years later, the current national secretary of the Indian Youth Congress is all set to assume the same role for the women's wing of the Congress.

"I was fresh out of college and wanted to transform our village; that was the primary reason why I contested. The foolhardiness of youth gave me courage, I doubt if I would do the same now and defy my family to follow my own path," says Jyothimani.

Speaking at a digital video conference organised by the US Consulate at Stella Maris College on Tuesday, she said that even if young women did not want to take active part in politics, they should

THE NUMBER GAME

SOUTH ASIA

- As of 2011, women account for 18% of members of South Asia's legislatures, up from 13% in 1995
- Women's representation exceeds 25% in Nepal, Timor, Afghanistan and Laos

UNITED STATES

- Percentage of voting female representation - **16.6%** (Congressional Research Service)
- US ranks **69th** worldwide on the Inter-Parliamentary Union database of female representation
- Approximately **4** out of 5 parliamentarians are men

involve themselves by enrolling with a political party of their choice. "It is not going to harm anybody; women must make their presence felt. In a democracy, it is all about numbers," she adds.

The economic and political empowerment of women in society is critical to economic development and sustaining peace and stability, said Jennifer McIntyre, Consul General, US Consulate, who also participated in the interaction that focused on the role of women

in politics, as the US presidential elections are just three weeks away.

The Consul General said that South Asia was special, as several nations like India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan have had women leaders at the helm for many years.

"Globally, although women comprise 40-50 per cent of members of political parties, they hold only about 10 per cent of party leadership positions," said Jennifer, adding that the US was no exception.

Lalitha Kumaramangalam, national executive of the Women's Wing of the Bharathiya Janata Party, said that the most important thing women could do was to take part in the voting process. Addressing women students, she said, "For the most part we have never had to fight for anything. Working at the grassroots level, I have seen the enormous gender bias; they become involved as they are fighting for a cause or an issue." She added that basic and essential issues like sanitation and education were hardly addressed in politics.

Priti Rao, executive director of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC), joined the conference from Boston.

Highlighting the work of her group, she said, "The challenges faced by women who go to office are several. First, they need a lot of encouragement even to go to office. Second, their lives are highly scrutinised and they are also not seen as politically viable."

The MWPC provides training and strategic support to candidates and have had several women elected to various positions in Massachusetts. Lalitha and Jyothimani conceded that while women who were elected got the required training, those who wish to enter the political arena in India should also be provided with such training.

The New Indian Express, October 17, 2012, P.1

UGC plan to push women to top as administrators

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to increase the participation of females in higher education management as also for better gender balance, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has prepared a training module for women involving a three-pronged approach. The move follows the HRD Ministry's directions to it for devising an education system that would churn out more women managers.

The step is also being taken to sensitise the higher education system through policies and procedures which recognise women equity and diversity and to involve the women capable of becoming administrators for qualitative development of higher education.

"There is a dearth of women administrators as far as academic bodies are concerned. This is to enhance and encourage women's participation so that they are also the top echelons in administrative unit of educational or cultural autonomous bodies under the HRD Ministry. The UGC had been tasked to prepare the module. There is enough participation of women in bureaucracy but they do not have adequate representation in the education field," said an HRD Ministry official.

The training module's three-pronged approach will offer training programmes focused on increasing their sensitivities to issues concerning women becoming managers; make it a movement of women rather than only a



scheme like any other; and involve Vice-Chancellors of the universities or Principals of the concerned colleges for the development of the programmes.

"Capacity building is through

the activities like sensitisation, awareness/motivation workshops, development and distribution of resource materials, research stimulation workshops, management skill workshops. All universities

recognised by the UGC are implementing the scheme of capacity building of women managers in higher education and a grant of ₹11.62 crore has been provided to various universities/colleges under this scheme," added the official.

According to an estimate, there is less than 10 per cent women's representation in the administrative field in academics and most of them rise to the level of principals of colleges. The goal now is to facilitate the constituencies of women faculty, administrators and staff. The global picture in higher education, according to a UGC report, indicates that men outnumber women at about five to one at middle management level and about 20 to one at senior management level.

The Pioneer, October 10, 2012, P.5

महिला सशक्तिकरण में काफी पीछे है भारत

मेलबर्न, 16 अक्टूबर (भाषा)। महिलाओं के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण के लिहाज से भारत की स्थिति अच्छी नहीं है। इस मामले में किए गए एक सर्वेक्षण में 128 देशों की सूची में भारत 115वें स्थान पर है। सूची में सबसे ऊपर आस्ट्रेलिया है। उसके बाद क्रमशः नार्वे, स्वीडन और फिनलैंड का स्थान है। वहीं निचले पायदान पर यमन, पाकिस्तान, सूडान और चाड का नाम है।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय परामर्श और प्रबंधन कंपनी बृज एंड कंपनी के इस शोध में भारत 115वें स्थान पर है। 'वर्ल्ड विलियम इंडेक्स' नाम से प्रकाशित शोध रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारत दुनिया की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी आबादी वाला देश है। कुल वैश्विक प्रतिभा पूल में भारत की हिस्सेदारी 14 फीसद है। इसमें 55 लाख महिलाएं हर साल भारत के कार्यबल में शामिल होती हैं। यह उल्लेखनीय रूप से सफल हैं।

शोध रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक भले ही भारतीय महिलाएं विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सफल हैं। लेकिन आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण और पेशेवर सफलता के मामले में उनके समक्ष काफी चुनौतियां हैं। इसमें कहा गया है कि हालांकि ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था ने भारत में अपार संभावनाएं पैदा की हैं। लेकिन इसके बावजूद कई महिलाएं सांस्कृतिक बाधाओं, लिंग भेदभाव और संसाधनों के अभाव में अपना क्षमता का पूर्ण उपयोग नहीं कर पाती। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, देश में महिलाओं के संरक्षण के लिए भेदभाव

निरोधक कानून है। लेकिन उसका क्रियान्वयन सही तरीके से नहीं हो पाया है। हर साल महिलाओं से जुड़े करीब एक हजार इज्जत के लिए हत्या के मामले प्रकाश में आते हैं।

इसमें कहा गया है, 'इसके अलावा बालिका भ्रूण हत्या, तेजाब से हमला, बलात्कार और यौन उत्पीड़न ऐसी चीजें हैं जो महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण में बाधक हैं।' रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अगर भारत को आर्थिक वृद्धि की रफ्तार को बनाए रखनी है तो उसे महिलाओं के रास्ते में आने वाली इन बाधाओं को दूर करना होगा। इस रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अगले एक दशक में दुनिया के कुल कार्यबल में एक अरब महिलाएं शामिल होंगी।

More women, professionals seek to bell the CAT this year

HT Correspondent

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UPWARD TREND

NEW DELHI: The number of women applying for the Common Admission Test (CAT) has gone up by 8.6 per cent as compared to last year, taking the number of woman applicants to almost 61,000.

The IIMs had, earlier this year, said that they would want their campuses to be more inclusive and would encourage more women to apply. Some IIMs such as IIM Rohtak and IIM Raipur said they would award more marks to women applicants.

Many IIMs had also said he would want more people from backgrounds other than engineering to apply. This, however, did not have much of an impact as the number of applicants with an engineering background increased by more than 12,000 — an increase of 8 per cent as

• The number of women applicants has gone up by 8.6 per cent this year

• A total of 61,000 women have applied for the test this year

• The number of test takers with 2-3 years of work experience went up by 43 per cent

• Applicants from OBC category went up by 3.3 per cent while those from SC/ST by 7.8 per cent

• Delhi has highest registered students at 21,507

compared to last year.

The number of applicants from humanities and commerce, meanwhile, came down by 700.

"Efforts are on to have a relook at the Common Admission Test (CAT). We will

try to introduce some changes that will be helpful for people from disciplines other than engineering," said SSS Kumar, CAT 2012 convener and professor at IIM Kozhikode.

In a trend that Kumar termed "positive", more people with work experience applied for CAT this year. There is an increase of 43 per cent in the test takers with 2-3 years of work experience.

Registrations under the OBC category went up from 3.3 per cent of the total registrations last year to 13.3 per cent this year. Registrations under the SC/ST categories have also gone up by 7.8 per cent.

"The shift in candidate pool in terms of gender and social balance is a positive indication that our society is becoming more aware of the opportunities that are available," he said.

Jansatta, October 17, 2012, P.5

Hindustan Times, October 16, 2012, P.2

SHAME LIST

India Ranks 115th on Women Empowerment

Melbourne: India has been ranked at a poor 115 by a global survey which looked into the level of economical empowerment of women in 128 countries.

The list was topped by Australia and followed by three Scandinavian countries - Norway, Sweden and Finland. At the bottom of the list were Yemen, Pakistan, Sudan and Chad.

The research done by an international consulting and management firm Booz & Company ranked India at 115 and noted that with the second-largest population in the world, India generates 14 per cent of the global talent pool, among which are the 5.5 mil-



lion women entering India's workforce each year, all overwhelmingly driven to succeed.

It added that although the knowledge economy has created enormous opportunities in India, too many women

are still prevented from reaching their full potential by a combination of cultural restrictions, gender discrimination, and lack of resources. "The country has anti-discrimination legislation in place designed to protect women, yet implementation

EACH YEAR, AROUND 1,000 'HONOUR KILLINGS' ARE PERPETRATED AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN

has a long way to go. Each year, approximately 1,000 'honour killings' are perpetrated against Indian women.

"Along with female feticide and infanticide, acid attacks, rape, and sexual harassment,

honour killings are both the symptoms of and catalysts for women's disempowerment."

"Forty-five per cent of women believe that they're treated unfairly at work because of their gender; many others struggle to rejoin the

workforce after giving birth. More than 50 per cent of women report safety concerns related to commuting," the scathing report said.

It underlined that if India is to sustain its rate of growth, it will have to break down

these sizable barriers to women's empowerment - both in the private-sector workforce and in the entrepreneurial landscape.

The report is based on the country's performance in terms of primary, secondary and tertiary education, equal pay for equal work, non-discrimination policies, access to childcare, property ownership rights and ability to access credit.

It also looks at whether wages are equal, the number of women in work compared with men, and whether there is equality in the number of female managers, senior business leaders and politicians. PTI

The New Indian Express, October 17, 2012, P.11

I want to see more women in Parliament, says Meira Kumar

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The seventh meeting of women Speakers of Parliament ended here on Thursday with a call for promoting women's representation in Parliaments and other elected bodies through supportive electoral laws and temporary special measures.

A declaration adopted at the end of the two-day meeting said it was important to bring women's participation to its utmost potential by enabling their representation in all parliamentary committees and ensuring their nomination or election

to leadership positions in parliamentary structures.

Without mentioning the Women's Reservation Bill - passed by the Rajya Sabha but pending in the Lok Sabha - Speaker Meira Kumar told journalists that she would like to see more women on the floor of the House.

MPs' requests

Ms. Kumar said she had been requested by MPs to play a proactive role in ensuring that women get more space in Parliament and she had even called several meetings on the issue.

Praising male MPs, Ms. Kumar said they were very

• 'Women representation in the House is only 11 per cent'

• 'Male MPs helped passage of a series of women-centric laws'

respectful to women and helped the passage of a series of women-centric laws, some of which were path-breaking including the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments which reserved 33 per cent seats for women in panchayats and municipal bodies.

"We do have a gender-sensitive Parliament." There are 190 Parliaments

in the world but only 37 have women Speakers. While India does have one in the Lok Sabha, the representation of women in the House is only 11 per cent.

Gender equality

The Delhi Declaration said gender equality should be placed higher on the parliamentary agenda by ensuring debates on the issue

inside Parliament, by mainstreaming gender through the establishment of specialised committees, and through women's caucuses and gender units.

'Include men in debate'

The Delhi Declaration called for sharing the responsibility for gender equality with men by raising their awareness and knowledge and associating them in legislative initiatives, debates and events on women's rights.

The meeting had been organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Indian Parliament.

The Hindu, October 05, 2012, P.13

Marching ahead

Enrolment ratio of under-graduate women has seen a significant jump in the last couple of years

Aarti Dhar

The recently released All India Survey on Higher Education has given Indian women a reason to cheer as their Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has shown an impressive jump between 2009-10 and 2010-2011 from 12.7 per cent to 16.5 per cent.

This clearly indicates that a larger number of women in the age group of 18-23 years are going in for higher studies now. However, though the enrolment is highest at the under-graduate level, it witnesses a sharp drop at the post graduate level. Similarly, diploma and certificate courses also appear to be quite popular among women with 3.13 lakh women having completed their certificate and diploma courses in 2009-2010 with the number crossing the 10 lakh mark in 2010-2011.

The percentage of female students among the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and the Other Backward Classes

(OBC) is equivalent to that of male students. In fact, it is slightly higher than male students in the case of the ST category with 4.6 per cent women enrolled in higher education as against 4.3 male students. For SCs, it is 10.1 per cent women as against 10.3 of male students and 26.8 per cent girl students for OBCs against 27.3 per cent males.

The provisional estimates of the Survey for 2010-2011 - the first of its kind exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to identify and capture various aspects of all the institutions of higher education in the country - has data from 448 universities, 8123 colleges and 4076 stand alone institutions which is uploaded on the web portal on a specially designed *pro forma*. The idea behind this voluntary exercise and the resulting document is to prepare a sound database on the large and diverse system of higher education in the country. A list of 621 universities, 27,468



REASON TO CHEER: The degree leads to women empowerment. PHOTO: NAGARA GOPAL

colleges and 11,643 stand alone institutions has been prepared under the survey of which 72 per cent universities, 29.6 per cent colleges and 35 per cent stand alone institutions have uploaded their data.

Interestingly, approximately only one per cent of the university and nine per cent of the colleges are exclusively meant for girls' education. The survey found that more ST women are employed in teaching and non-teaching posts in the responding institutions than ST men. As far as the teaching staff is concerned, 3.1 per cent ST women are

employed against 2.7 per cent ST men; 6.7 per cent SC women are employed in comparison to 7.7 per cent SC men. Under the OBC category, 22.5 per cent women are employed as against 23.8 per cent men.

In the non-teaching staff category, the number of women employees is more in all three reserved categories when compared to men. The percentage stands at 13.8 per cent against 11.8 per cent men among the SCs, 4.6 per cent in the ST category as against 3.8 per cent men and 24.7 per cent in OBC category as against 22.3 per cent men.

The Hindu, October 09, 2012, P.8

महिलाओं को बनना होगा सबला'

हिसार, 25 अक्टूबर (हप्र)। परम्परागत प्रथाओं से ऊपर उठकर महिलाओं को अपनी शक्ति को पहचान कर महिलाओं के विरुद्ध हो रहे अपराधों का डटकर मुकाबला करना होगा और अपने आप को एक सबला नारी के रूप में स्थापित करना होगा। यह विचार पुलिस अधीक्षक बी. सतीश चालान ने बृहस्पतिवार को महिलाओं के विरुद्ध हो रहे अपराधों बारे जागरूकता अभियान के दौरान गुरु जंभेश्वर विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय तथा राजकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय हिसार में छात्र-छात्राओं को संबोधित करते हुए व्यक्त किए। उन्होंने कहा कि आज महिलाओं ने हर क्षेत्र में अपनी काबलियत का लोहा मनवाया है अर्थात् वे हर क्षेत्र में पुरुषों से कहीं पीछे नहीं हैं। ऐसे महिलाओं के विरुद्ध हो रही अपराधिक घटनाओं को रोकने में महिलाओं को अपने शक्ति को पहचानते हुए आगे आना होगा। उन्हें समाज की परम्परागत

सोच को महिलाएं अबला होती हैं, से निकलकर सबला नारी की भूमिका निभानी होगी।

पुलिस प्रवक्ता हरीश भारद्वाज ने बतलाया कि महिलाओं पर हो रहे अपराधों पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए हिसार जिले के शिक्षण संस्थानों में युवाओं को जागरूक करने के लिए एक विशेष अभियान के तहत पुलिस अधीक्षक बी. सतीश चालान स्वयं विद्यार्थियों के साथ मिलकर एक प्रश्नोत्तरी कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत उनके सुझाव अपने विचारों का आदान-प्रदान कर रहे हैं। इस अवसर पर जीजेयू के प्रो. संदीप राणा, चरणजीत कौर सहित काफी छात्र-छात्राओं ने भाग लिया। राजकीय महाविद्यालय हिसार के प्रिंसिपल डॉ. पदम शर्मा, डॉ. संतोष मलिक, डॉ. दलीप सिंह व मन्खन सिंह अंग्रेजी प्राध्यापक, ट्रेफिक इंचार्ज देवासिंह, सहित सैकड़ों बच्चों ने भाग लेकर श्री चालान के साथ इस ज्वलनशील मुद्दे पर चर्चा की।

Dainik Tribune, October 26, 2012, P.6

3.2 Marriage/ Dowry/ Divorce

Khaps do a U-turn on early age marriage

CLIMBDOWN The remark was my personal opinion, khaps don't promote such idea, says mahapanchayat leader

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

SONEPAT: Isolated suddenly on the issue of lowering the legal age of marriage for girls, khap panchayats appear to have done a rethink on the demand.

On Saturday, a khap mahapanchayat in Sonapat condemned the suggestion that the government lower the age of marriage to help combat rape.

Sube Singh Samain — sarv khap mahapanchayat spokesperson who announced the age-lowering resolution after a mahapanchayat on October 9 — said he had aired his personal opinion. Khaps had not promoted any such idea.

The retraction comes two days after opposition leader and INLD leader Om Parkash Chautala backtracked from his statement invoking the Mughal era practice of "marrying girls off early to ward off rape".

The wholesale retraction is apparently a reaction to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's statement pointing out the illegality of khaps or anyone else laying down the law. "The law is in hands of judiciary, not anyone else's," she had said during her visit to Jind on October 9, to meet the family of a 15-year-old gangrape victim who had committed suicide.

The same day, the executive body of the mahapanchayat had passed the resolution, "after much consultation and brooding," Samain had told HT. Regarding Gandhi's statement, he had said, "We are not imple-

THE RETREAT

Contradictory statements by Sube Singh Samain, sarv khap mahapanchayat

OCT 7: The influence of cinema and adoption of western culture has destabilised the society and hence we have rape incidents. The best way to ward off such incidents is to lower the age of marriage of girls...

OCT 9: Khaps have passed this resolution that condemns lowering marriage age suggestion after much consultation and brooding.

menting this and going against the judiciary, but we are suggesting it to the government."

On Saturday, Baljit Malik, president of Gatwala khap, said, "We don't want the judiciary to lower the marriage age of girls, but there should be a provision that parents can marry off their sons and daughters at the age of 16 if they are found going astray."

State BJP president Krishan Pal Gurjar said it appeared wise on the part of khap leaders to have corrected themselves.

Haryana Janhit Congress president Kuldeep Bishnoi said his party had never supported the idea of early marriage as a solution to incidents of rapes.

"I have always maintained we are law-abiding citizens and will not support anything unconstitutional," he said. Haryana Congress president Phool Chand Mullana couldn't be contacted.

'दहेज मामलों में स्पष्ट आरोपों के बगैर परिजनों को न घसीटा जाए'

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली, 26 अक्टूबर। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा है कि दहेज के मामलों में स्पष्ट आरोपों के बगैर महज शिकायत के आधार पर परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों को मामले में घसीटा नहीं जाना चाहिए। न्यायमूर्ति तौरथ सिंह ठाकुर और न्यायमूर्ति ज्ञान सुधा मिश्रा की एक खंडपीठ ने ससुराल के सदस्यों के खिलाफ चला रही आपराधिक कार्यवाही रद्द करते हुए यह अहम ब्यवस्था दी।

जजों ने कहा कि ऐसे मामलों में परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों को भी इसकी चपेट में लेते समय अदालतों को एहतियात बरतना चाहिए क्योंकि कई बार पत्नी छोटे-मोटे घरेलू विवादों को लेकर दूसरों के साथ हिंसा बराबर करना चाहती है।

जजों ने कहा कि वैवाहिक झगड़ों के मामलों में अगर प्राथमिकी में आरोपी और सह आरोपियों के खिलाफ निश्चित आरोप नहीं लगाया गया हो तो प्राथमिकी में नामित लोगों के नाम यंत्रवत तरीके से मुकदमे का सामना करने के लिए भेजना कानूनी और

न्यायिक प्रक्रिया का दुरुपयोग होगा। अदालत ने कहा कि प्राथमिकी में जब परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों के बारे में स्पष्ट आरोप नहीं हो तब उन्हें ऐसे मामलों के दायरे में नहीं लेना चाहिए। वैवाहिक विवादों से संबंधित मामलों को रद्द करते समय अदालतों से सतर्कता बरतने की अपेक्षा की जाती है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मुताबिक अदालतों को यह देखना चाहिए कि क्या प्राथमिकी में रिश्तेदारों की ओर से किसी अपराध का खुलासा होता है या प्राथमिकी में पहली नजर में ऐसा लगता है कि कहीं यह शिकायतकर्ता (पत्नी) जो नए माहौल में खुद को ढालने की प्रक्रिया के दौरान होने वाली नॉक-शॉक या कहा-सुनी के कारण समूचे परिवार को फंसाना तो नहीं चाहती।

अदालत प्राथमिकी में लगाए गए आरोपों के अवलोकन के बाद इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंची कि शिकायत में ऐसी किसी निश्चित घटना का जिक्र नहीं था, जिससे यह पता चलता हो कि महिला को दहेज के लिए यातना दी गई हो।

Jansatta, October 27, 2012, P.5



Hindustan Times, October 14, 2012, P.10

Hindustan Times, October 15, 2012, P.7

3.3 Violence and Abuse Against Women

अनुकरणीय पहल

महिलाओं के विरुद्ध बलात्कार और दहेज हत्या सरीखे मामलों के त्वरित निपटारे के पंजाब एवं हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय के निर्देश स्वागत योग्य होने के साथ-साथ अन्य राज्यों के लिए भी अनुकरणीय होने चाहिए। यह समझना मुश्किल नहीं होना चाहिए कि पंजाब एवं हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय के इन निर्देशों के मूल में हरियाणा में हाल ही में बलात्कार में मामलों में हुई वृद्धि से उत्पन्न चिंता ही रही होगी। उच्च न्यायालय ने हरियाणा के साथ-साथ पंजाब और केंद्रशासित क्षेत्र चंडीगढ़ को भी यह निर्देश दिये हैं कि भारतीय दंड संहिता की धारा 376 और 304-बी के तहत आने वाले महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराधों क्रमशः बलात्कार और दहेज हत्या का निपटारा त्वरित गति से किया जाये तथा इन मामलों में प्रगति रिपोर्ट भी मासिक आधार पर हर महीने की 10 तारीख को उसे भेजी जाये। महिलाओं के विरुद्ध इन शर्मनाक अपमानवीय अपराधों के त्वरित निपटारे के निर्देश विलंबित न्याय को न्याय से इनकार ही मानने की अवधारणा के महेतजर तो महत्वपूर्ण हैं ही, उससे अपराधियों में भी सख्त संदेश जायेगा। करण जो भी हो, लेकिन भारतीय जांच और न्याय प्रक्रिया की सुस्त गति अपराधियों के हौसले बुलंद होने का आधार हो बन रही है। इस सुस्ती को वजह से ही अपराधियों में यह आत्मविश्वास आया है कि अलबत्ता तो वे व्यवस्था में मौजूद भ्रष्टाचार के छिद्रों का लाभ उठाकर ही बच निकलेंगे, लेकिन अगर वैसा नहीं भी हो पाया तो जांच और न्याय प्रक्रिया को धीमी गति को और अधिक सुस्त करने का कवच तो उपलब्ध है ही। बेशक महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराधों के त्वरित निपटारे के कुछ अपवाद हो सकते हैं, लेकिन सामान्य तौर तो ये मामले भी लंबे समय तक पुलिस जांच और फिर न्याय प्रक्रिया में लटके ही रहते हैं।

कहना नहीं होगा कि अपराध किसी के भी विरुद्ध हो और कैसा भी हो, उसका त्वरित निपटारा और दोषियों को कठोर दंड ही सच्चे न्याय का तकाजा है लेकिन महिलाओं के विरुद्ध घटित होने वाले अपराधों में अतिरिक्त संवेदनशीलता कई कारणों से जरूरी है। पहला कारण तो यही कि उन्हें महिला होने के कारण ही बलात्कार और दहेज सरीखे अपराधों का शिकार बनाया जाता है। दहेज के मामले में तो वे ही लोग उनके दुस्मन बन जाते हैं, जिनके ऊपर उनके रखक होने की जिम्मेदारी है। बलात्कार तो अपने आप में सबसे बुरा अपराध की श्रेणी में रखा जाना चाहिए। दरअसल यह किसी शरीर के जीवित रहते हुए ही उसकी आत्मा की हत्या कर देने जैसा है। दूसरे के द्वारा अपने साथ किये गये इस अपराध का बोझ उठाने जौना कितना मुश्किल होता है, इसका अंदाजा बलात्कार की शिकार महिलाओं-लड़कियों द्वारा अत्महत्या करने से भी लगाया जा सकता है, जबकि उसमें उनका कोई दोष नहीं होता लेकिन हमारा समाज ही कई बार उनका जीवन और भी दुःख बना देता है। उसके बाद अक्सर देखा गया है कि लंबी अदालती कार्रवाई भी पीड़िता को ही शर्मसार करने वाली साबित होती है। इसलिए महिलाओं के विरुद्ध होने वाले अपराधों को अतिरिक्त संवेदनशीलता से देखने और अतिरिक्त प्रतिबद्धता से उनमें कार्रवाई करने की जरूरत है। इस दृष्टि से पंजाब एवं हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय के इन निर्देशों का स्वागत ही किया जाना चाहिए कि पंजाब, हरियाणा और चंडीगढ़ में महिलाओं के विरुद्ध होने वाले बलात्कार और दहेज हत्या सरीखे अपराधों को जिला एवं सत्र न्यायालयों में त्वरित गति से सुनवाई होनी चाहिए तथा इन मामलों को मासिक प्रगति रिपोर्ट हर महीने की 10 तारीख को उच्च न्यायालय को भेजी जानी चाहिए।

निश्चय ही इन निर्देशों से पीड़ित महिलाओं और उनके परिवारों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी लेकिन पंजाब एवं हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय को इस स्वागत योग्य पहल और उसमें निहित संदेश का अनुकरण हर स्तर पर किये जाने की जरूरत है। जिस हरियाणा में बलात्कार के मामलों में अचानक हुई वृद्धि ने पूरे देश को हिला कर रख दिया है, उसको सरकार ने भी महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराधों के मामले में कुछ पहल की है। मसलन , सरकार ने महिलाओं के विरुद्ध होने वाले अपराधों की जांच और निगरानी के लिए जिलाधिकारों, वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक और डिस्ट्रिक्ट एटर्नी की तीन सदस्यीय समिति बना दी है। साथ ही हर जिले में एक महिला डीपसपी और पुलिस इंस्पेक्टर की नियुक्ति करने का भी फैसला किया गया है। इसमें तो दोष नहीं कि किसी भी तरह के अपराधों पर अंकुश के लिए पुलिस-प्रशासनिक सब्की पहली अनिवार्यता है और उसके लिए अपराधों में वृद्धि का इंतजार इरगिज नहीं किया जाना चाहिए लेकिन खासकर महिलाओं के विरुद्ध होने वाले अपराधों को रोकने में सरकार के साथ-साथ समाज की भी अहम भूमिका हो सकती है। नैतिक मूल्यों के क्षरण से भी बलात्कार सरीखे अपराधों में वृद्धि हो रही है। इसलिए दहेज सरीखी सामाजिक कुरीतियों के खाले तथा नैतिक मूल्यों की पुनर्स्थापना के जरिये बलात्कार सरीखे अपराधों में कमी लाने में सामाजिक संगठन महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकते हैं। सरकार को चाहिए कि इन संगठनों को भी आगे आने के लिए प्रेरित करे। बलात्कार की घटनाओं में वृद्धि के महेतजर छिड़ी बहस में कुछ स्वयंसेवक सामाजिक नेताओं को और से लड़कियों की कम उम्र में ही शादी कर देने जैसे सुझाव आये हैं तो फस्ट फूड को इन अपराधों का कारण भी बताया गया है। स्वाभाविक ही ऐसी अताकिक बयानबाजी से सामाजिक संगठनों को साथ पर स्वाधिलया निशान लगे हैं। इसलिए खाप समेत ऐसे सभी सामाजिक संगठनों को भी अपनी छवि और साथ सुधारने के लिए समाज सुधार में अपना योगदान देना चाहिए।

महिलाओं से जुड़े अपराधों की निगरानी के लिए कमेटी गठित

गुडगांव, 19 अक्टूबर (हप्र)। जिला में महिलाओं के विरुद्ध होने वाले जघन्य अपराधों पर निगरानी रखने के लिए उपायुक्त पोसा मोंगा की अध्यक्षता में जिला स्तरीय समिति का गठन किया गया है। जिला न्यायवादी एमएस यादव तथा तौनों पुलिस उपायुक्त इस समिति के सदस्य बनाए गए हैं।

इस जिला स्तरीय समिति की पहली बैठक की अध्यक्षता करते हुए उपायुक्त ने पुलिस अधिकारियों को अब तक गुडगांव जिले में महिलाओं के विरुद्ध घटित जघन्य अपराधों का डाटा तैयार करने के निर्देश देते हुए कहा कि प्रत्येक मामले को गहनता से शीघ्र जांच करने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने पुलिस अधिकारियों से कहा कि वे वानू प्रभारियों को इस बारे में

सतर्क करे कि किसी भी महिला को शिकायत थाने या पुलिस चौकी में आते ही, दोनों पक्षों में राबौनामे का इंतजार न करे और तत्काल केस दर्ज किया जाए। इसके बाद यह ध्यान रखा जाए कि ऐसे मामलों की जांच-पड़ताल में ज्यादा समय नष्ट न हो और जांच रिपोर्ट शीघ्र अतिरिक्त प्रस्तुत की जाए। उन्होंने पुलिस से अब तक के महिलाओं के विरुद्ध मामलों की चतुर्मुखी रिपोर्ट भी तलब की है।

श्री मोंगा ने यह भी कहा कि बलात्कार का मामला प्रकाश में आने पर पुलिस को चाहिए कि वह उसी समय पीड़िता तथा आरोपी दोनों का मेडिकल और डीएनए टेस्ट करवाए, लीक दोषों व्यक्ति किसी भी सूत में कानून को पकड़ से बचने न जाए।

उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाओं के लिए जिला विधिक सेवाएं प्राधिकरण में मुक्त कानूनी सहायता का प्रावधान है, जिसके बारे में पीड़िता को अवश्य अवगत कराया जाना चाहिए। इस प्रावधान के अंतर्गत कोई भी महिला, चाहे उसकी आय कितनी भी अल्प न हो, को न्याय प्राप्त करने के लिए मुक्त बकायत करके दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए उस महिला को केवल जिला विधिक सेवाएं प्राधिकरण को सचिव एवं वॉफ ज्युडिशियल मैजिस्ट्रेट के पास साधारण कागज पर दरखस्त देनी होगी। बैठक में अतिरिक्त उपायुक्त के एम पांडुरंग, सहायक पुलिस आयुक्त (शहर) नरेश सिंह, सहायक पुलिस आयुक्त (सुबखालप) तंगीता, नगराधीश मनोषा शर्मा भी उपस्थित थे।

Dainik Tribune, October 20, 2012, P.8 Dainik Tribune, Oct 20, 2012, P.3

Women groups flay Hooda Govt

ANNAPURNA JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Women groups on Thursday criticised the Haryana Government for their tardy and ineffective response to recent incidents of rape cases in the State and demanded speedy up fast track courts for setting trial of such heinous crimes.

A day after a joint delegation of women groups met CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, they flayed the Government for turning a blind eye to demeaning and regressive suggestions by khaps to lower age of marriage or irresponsible statements of politicians blaming women for the spate of gangrapes, especially of dalit women, during the past one month.

Representatives from AIDWA, NFIW, YWCA, Dalit Mahila Andolan and Joint Women Organisation pointed out that during a rally organised in Rohtak on October 15 by women activists demanding justice for the survivors of rape and sexual assault, the State administration instead of respecting people's right, ordered police to beat up the peaceful protesters. The District Collector refused to meet protesters and police filed FIRs against Brinda Karat, Jagmati Sangwan and others, they pointed out and demanded that cases be immediately withdrawn.

AIDWA general secretary Sudha Sundaraman said that the delegation demanded that guidelines relating to a standard operation procedure be sent out to all police stations, with clear instructions on women police taking statements from rape victims in the presence of relatives and lawyers, and immediate gathering of all evidence. Anyone violating SOP be made accountable on the demand of taking action against khap panchayats or political leaders, Sudha said.

Hooda said that the State Government has written to the Punjab and Haryana High Court to set up Fast Track Courts to deal with these heinous crimes and committees are being set up at district level for monitoring crimes against women to expedite cases, supervise them and provide legal aid, rehabilitation to victims.

Women organisations have also sought immediate intervention by the National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women to provide assistance to the victims and stringent action against culprits. They flayed NCW for not taking any action in Haryana rape cases till now.

The Pioneer, October 19, 2012, P.5

अपराध का कलंक किस-किसके सिर!

यौन हिंसा
अलका आर्य

राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्राथमिक चिंता बलात्कार के मामलों में वृद्धि और महिलाओं के प्रति बढ़ रहे अपराध को लेकर है।

भारत भी इसका अपवाद नहीं है। सर्वोच्च अदालत की एक खंडपीठ ने हाल में बलात्कार के एक मामले में फैसला सुनाते हुए तथ्यपरक सच्चाई हमारे सामने रखी है। ऐसा नहीं है कि कोई भी राज्य और उसका बुद्धिजीवी वर्ग व समाज इससे नावर्कित हो मगर देश की शीर्ष अदालत जब ऐसे जघन्य अपराध पर राज्य अदालत व समाज का ध्यान खींचती है तो इस पर चर्चा का गंभीर माहौल तैयार होना चाहिए। पर ऐसा होना नहीं दिख रहा, खासकर राजनेताओं की तरफ से। 15 अक्टूबर को पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री और तृणमूल कांग्रेस की प्रमुख ममता बनर्जी ने पार्टी के मुखपत्र के विशेष पूजा संस्करण की रिलीज करते हुए टिप्पणी की कि अधिक आजादी की वजह से बलात्कार के मामले बढ़ रहे हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी के मुताबिक अब सब कुछ खुला है। यह खुले बाजार जैसा है, जहाँ हर तरह के विकल्प हैं।

हरियाणा, जो 'रेप कैपिटल' के तौर पर जाना जाने लगा है, वहाँ कांग्रेस प्रदेश प्रमुख फूलचंद मीलाना ने राज्य में बलात्कार की घटनाओं के पीछे सत्ता को बदनाम करने वाली साक्षिणी की ओर इशारा किया। हरियाणा के ही एक कांग्रेसी प्रवक्ता घरमवीर गोयत ने 11 अक्टूबर को हिसार में कहा था कि बलात्कार के 90 प्रतिशत मामलों में सहमति होती है। लड़की का लड़के से अफेयर हो जाता है और लड़की बिना यह जानकारी लिए लड़के के साथ चली जाती है कि वह आसक्ति मानसिकता का है।

इधर खासों के एक घड़े का कहना है कि बलात्कार की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए शादी की उम्र 18 से घटाकर 15 कर देनी चाहिए और

इसके लिए उसने हिंदू मैरिज एक्ट में संशोधन की वकालत की है। खास प्रतिनिधियों की राय में जब दूसरे धर्म में 18 साल से कम उम्र में लड़की की शादी करने की इजाजत है तो फिर हिंदू मैरिज एक्ट में आयु सीमा 18 साल क्यों? देश का संविधान अब एक है तो शादी के नियम अलग-अलग क्यों? सरकार को माता-पिता को यह हक

वरसाई। देश में एक ओर बलात्कार की घटनाओं में लगातार वृद्धि तो रही है तो दूसरी ओर इसके खिलाफ कानून-व्यवस्था व मशीनरी की प्रभावशून्यता दिख रही है। इस समस्या के समाधान के प्रति 'जीरो टोलरेंस' की नीति की बजाए स्थिति 'जीरो पॉलिटिकल विल' की है। आबादी के लिहाज से दुनिया में दूसरे नंबर वाली



- देश में एक ओर बलात्कार की घटनाओं में वृद्धि हो रही है तो दूसरी ओर इसके खिलाफ कानून-व्यवस्था व मशीनरी की प्रभावशून्यता दिख रही है। इस समस्या के समाधान के प्रति 'जीरो टोलरेंस' की नीति अपनाने की बजाए स्थिति 'जीरो पॉलिटिकल विल' की है
- इसका एक चिंताजनक पहलू अदालतों में ऐसे मामलों के निपटारों की लंबी प्रक्रिया व दोषियों की सजा दर में गिरावट है। वीते दो दशकों में ऐसे मामलों के लंबित रहने की दर काफी बढ़ी है

देना चाहिए कि वह चाहें तो 16 साल की लड़की व 18 साल के लड़के की शादी कर सके। हरियाणा के एक आला पुलिस अधिकारी व पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने राज्य में बलात्कार की घटनाओं को बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर पेश करने के लिए मीडिया की आलोचना की तो सोमवार (15 अक्टूबर) को हरियाणा के रोहताक में लघु सचिवालय के बाहर बलात्कार की घटनाओं के खिलाफ शांतिपूर्ण प्रदर्शन करने गई महिलाओं पर हरियाणा पुलिस ने लाठियां

1.2 अरब की आबादी वाला अपना देश अपनी ही आधी आबादी के लिए सुरक्षित नहीं है। एक भारतीय महिला के साथ बलात्कार की आशंका वीते दो दशकों में दोपुनी हो गई है। हर 20 मिनट में यहाँ किसी न किसी के साथ बलात्कार होता है और ऐसी पीड़ितों में से हर तीसरी कोई बच्ची होती है। ये वो मामले हैं, जो पुलिस में दर्ज होते हैं और यह भी एक सच है कि बलात्कार की सभी घटनाएँ पुलिस रिकॉर्ड में दर्ज नहीं होती। कारण सामाजिक लाज व पुलिस का संबंदेनहीन रवैया

और जाति-धन-राजनीति का घटजोड़ आदि। नेशनल क्राइम रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो के अनुसार वर्ष 2011 में देश में बलात्कार की सबसे अधिक घटनाएँ (3,406) भाजपा शासित मध्यप्रदेश में हुईं। दूसरा नंबर पश्चिम बंगाल (2,363) का है। प्रसंग्यशा बता दें कि इस सूचे की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने बलात्कार की एक घटना पर टिप्पणी की थी कि यह मामला उनको सरकार को बदनाम करने की साक्षिणी के लिए गढ़ा गया है यानी जली मामला है। तीसरे नंबर पर देश का सबसे बड़ा राज्य उत्तर प्रदेश (2,042), चौथे पर राजस्थान (1,800) और पाँचवे पर महाराष्ट्र (1,701) है।

बलात्कार देश में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाले अपराधों की सूची में शामिल है। इसका एक चिंताजनक पहलू अदालतों में ऐसे मामलों के निपटारों की लंबी प्रक्रिया व दोषियों की सजा दर में गिरावट है। वीते दो दशकों में ऐसे मामलों के लंबित पड़े रहने की दर काफी बढ़ी है। यह 78 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 83 प्रतिशत हो गई है। चार मामलों में से एक में ही दायित्व हो पाता है। जहाँ तक दोषियों को सजा देने का सवाल है तो 2011 में चार में से सिर्फ एक को जेल हुई यानी तीन बरो हो गए। 1990 में 41 फास्ट मामलों में अपराध सिद्ध हो सका और दस साल बाद 2000 में 31 प्रतिशत मामलों में। 1.27 लाख आरोपी बलात्कार के मामलों में दायित्व का सामना कर रहे हैं। सर्वोच्च अदालत की एक खंडपीठ ने 12 अक्टूबर को कहा कि अदालतों को बलात्कार के अपराधों में साक्ष्यों की जांच करते समय अधिक सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए और लिख अभिप्रेतों को कमजोर और हल्के आरोपों पर नहीं छोड़ना चाहिए। उम्मीद की जानी चाहिए कि अदालतें बलात्कार के मामलों की सुनवाई में सर्वोच्च अदालत की सावधानी बरतने वाली सलाह पर ध्यान देंगी। बहरहाल हरियाणा में पिछले करीब डेढ़ महीने में बलात्कार की 19 घटनाएँ दर्ज की गई हैं। यहाँ वर्ष 2011 में 732 ऐसी घटनाएँ पुलिस रिकॉर्ड में हैं। हरियाणा के हिसार जिले में 9 सितंबर को एक दलित लड़की के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार हुआ। उस घटना का एमएम्एस भी लोगों को दिखाया गया।

इसे देख जलालत से आहत बाप ने तो सीधे आत्महत्या कर ली। पीड़ित लड़की और उसकी माँ ने शव को सरकारी अस्पताल से तब तक ले जाने के लिए मना कर दिया जब तक पुलिस सभी आरोपियों के खिलाफ बलात्कार का मामला दर्ज नहीं करती। 6 अक्टूबर को जींद के सच्चाखेड़ा गाँव में दुकान से सामान लेकर सैट रही 16 साल की एक दलित किशोरी को 12.30 बजे दो दलित युवक जब्त कर ले जाकर उसके साथ बलात्कार करते हैं और घर के बाहर उनका चचेरा भाई जो हरियाणा पुलिस में रिपार्ती है, सीक्रेटरी करता है। पीड़ित किशोरी ने हादसे के बाद आत्महत्या कर ली। इसी तरह केवल लिले के कलापन में एक दलित किशोरी के साथ दो राजपूत लड़कों पर उसे अगावकार बलात्कार का आरोप है। बलात्कार के बाद आरोपी रात सात बजे मोहल्ले की स्ट्रीट लाइट की सप्लाय ट्रांसफार्मर से बंद कर अंधेरे में पीड़ित किशोरी को उसके घर से थोड़ी दूरी पर फेंक गए।

इन हदय विदारक घटनाओं से साफ है कि अपराधियों व शत्रु देने वाली को कानून का कोई खौफ नहीं है। कानून-व्यवस्था को कड़ा करने व नेताओं व पुलिस-प्रशासन की संवेदनहीनता के खिलाफ महिला संगठन प्रदर्शन करते हैं तो प्रशासन उन पर लाठियाँ बरसाता है। रास्ता क्या है? सामाजिक बलात्कारो मानसिकता को चुनौती देने के साथ-साथ कानून का सख्ती से पालन जब तक नहीं होगा, तब तक कभी कोई पीड़ित लड़की आत्महत्या करती रहेगी तो कभी उसके पिता या माता। कभी ऐसी पीड़ित के बहन-भाइयों को बदनामी के डर से स्कूल प्रशासन स्कूल से भी निकाल बाहर फेंकता है। कोप्रेस अध्यक्ष सोनिया गाँधी दलित पीड़ित (जो अब जिंदा नहीं है) के परिवारजनों से सलतुपुति प्राप्त करने 9 अक्टूबर को सच्चाखेड़ा गाँव गई थीं। हरियाणा सरकार ने बलात्कार के मामलों की टोक से जांच, उन पर निगरानी और तीव्र गति से मुकदमा चलाने के लिए तीन सदस्यीय कमेटी का ऐलान किया है। महिलाओं के लिए एक विशेष हेल्पलाइन नंबर 8146693100 पुलिस कंट्रोल रूम, पंचक्रुता में स्थापित किया गया है। देर से की गई ऐसी घोषणाओं की जमीनी हकीकत पर क्या लिखेंगे।

Rashtriya Sahara, October 19, 2012, P.10

Sharp rise in trafficking for sex in UK

SARJU KAUL
LONDON, OCT. 18

Trafficking of people to the UK for sex, labour, and domestic slavery is rising, according to the UK government's estimates released in a report on Thursday. Trafficking gangs in China, Vietnam, Nigeria, Romania and Slovakia pose the biggest threat to the UK, the inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking said. India too is a country of concern for child and women trafficking. There were also some

British victims. The UK has no mechanism in place to measure the number of people trafficked into the country, but makes estimates based on the National Referral Mechanism. Last year, there were 946 victims compared to 710 victims in 2010, the report by the inter-departmental ministerial group on human trafficking said. "In 2011, 946 potential victims of human trafficking were referred to NRM. Of these, 634 were females and 312 were males, 712 were adults and 234 were children. The majority of

potential child victims were reported to be in the 16-17 year old age category," the report said. The most prevalent exploitation type recorded through the NRM, for adults, was sexual exploitation, the report revealed. However, it said that the incidence of labour exploitation and criminal exploitation is increasing. The most prevalent type of exploitation reported for children was labour exploitation. The report also detailed two cases of people trafficked for illegal organ

removals, but they were rescued before the organ removal took place. It is estimated that there could be over 2,000 potential victims of human trafficking in the UK and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre estimates there are about 300 child trafficking victims in the UK every year. "Human trafficking is abhorrent and the UK government is committed to combating this crime in all its forms," immigration minister Mark Harper, who heads the group on human trafficking, said.

"We have already made significant progress in the fight against trafficking but the government is not complacent and we will continue to work to improve and strengthen our approach to keep pace with emerging threats. From next year the National Crime Agency will build on existing work to combat trafficking by using its enhanced crime fighting and intelligence capabilities to target criminal gangs," he added. The UK is also trying to get airlines staff to identify traffickers.

The Asian Age, October 19, 2012, P.10

यौन हिंसा

की शिकार दलित कन्याएं

■ अरविंद जैन

हाल के दिनों में जिस तरह से हरियाणा में एक के बाद एक बलात्कार की घटनाएं बढ़ी हैं, उसके चलते न सिर्फ कानून-व्यवस्था पर कई सवाल उठ खड़े हुए हैं बल्कि लड़कियों की शादी की उम्र 18 से घटाकर 16 साल और लड़कों की उम्र 21 से घटाकर 18 कर देने के तर्क भी दिये जा रहे हैं। अधिकतर हादसे दलित महिलाओं के साथ ही हुए। अगर बलात्कार के मामलों में सख्त कार्रवाई होती और कठोर सजा मिलती तो लड़कियां खुद को सुरक्षित महसूस कर सकती थीं

हरियाणा के जिले जींद के सच्चा खेड़ा गांव में कुछ दिन पूर्व दलित परिवार की 16 वर्षीय किशोरी के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार हुआ। बर्बर दुर्यटना के बाद लड़की ने खुद पर मिट्टी का तेल छिड़ककर आत्मदाह कर लिया। बलात्कार की शिकार किशोरी के परिवार के जख्मों पर मरहम लगाने पहुंची कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी ने पत्रकारों से कहा कि इस तरह की घटनाएं बढ़ी हैं लेकिन ऐसा सिर्फ हरियाणा में नहीं, देश के सभी राज्यों में भी है। सोनिया ने दोषियों को सख्त सजा देने की बात कही मगर जिम्मेदारी कानून और न्यायपालिका के गले में बांध दी। सनद रहे कि 2010 में मिरापुर प्रकरण के बाद राहुल गांधी पीड़ित परिवार को दिलासा देने पहुंचे थे।

अनुसूचित जाति-जनजाति आयोग के चेयरमैन पी. एस. पुनिया ने हरियाणा को 'बलात्कार प्रदेश' के नाम से नवाजा है किन्तु सगेर और प्रेम विवाहों पर तालिबानी फरमान जारी करने वाली कुछ खाप पंचायतों ने बलात्कार रोकने के लिए सुझाव दिया है कि अगर लड़कियों की शादी की उम्र 18 से घटाकर 16 साल और लड़कों की उम्र 21 से घटाकर 18 कर दी जाए, तो बलात्कार के मामलों में कमी आ सकती है। हरियाणा के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और मण्डलाध्यक्ष चौटाला ने भी खाप पंचायत के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करते हुए कहा है कि मुगलों के शासनकाल में भी हमलावरों से बेटियों को बचाने के लिए उनकी शादी छेटी उम्र में कर दी जाती थी। हमें भी इतिहास से सबक लेना चाहिए और खाप पंचायतों के इस अछड़े फैसले को मान लेना चाहिए। समझ नहीं आ रहा कि हरियाणा के सामाजिक और राजनीतिक विवेक को आखिर हो क्या गया है? क्या आर्थिक समृद्धि की अफीम, राज्य की आत्मा तक को निगल गई है? चौटालाजी! इस देश में 3 महीने की बच्चों से लेकर 70 साल की वृद्ध महिला तक से बलात्कार के मामले सामने आये हैं और आप हैं कि बेटों की राजनीति के लिए ऐसे शर्मनाक बयान दे रहे हैं। शुक्र है, आप हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री नहीं हैं (अब) वरना न जाने क्या करते-करवाते।

सोनिया गांधी के जींद दौर के अगले ही दिन, कैथल में एक और

जनवरी 2012 से लेकर अब तक

हिसार में 94

करनाल में 92

रेवाड़ी में 89

रोहतक में 87

गुड़गांव में 34

अंबाला में 31

फरीदाबाद में 28

बलात्कार के मामले दर्ज हुए हैं

दलित लड़की के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार का समाचार आ खड़ा हुआ। राज्य में वीते परखवाड़े में ही 'यौन हिंसा' की यह 14वीं घटना है। इससे पहले हिसार, भिवानी, अम्बाला, पानीपत, यमुना नगर और न जाने कहाँ-कहाँ, हरियाणा के दबंगों ने दलित बालिकाओं के साथ शर्मनाक अपराधों को अंजाम दिया है। जनवरी 2012 से लेकर अब तक हिसार में 94, करनाल में 92, रेवाड़ी में 89, रोहतक में 87, गुड़गांव में 34, अंबाला में 31 और फरीदाबाद में 28 बलात्कार के मामले दर्ज हुए हैं। अधिकतर हादसे दलित महिलाओं के साथ ही हुए। अगर बलात्कार के मामलों में सख्त कार्रवाई होती और कठोर सजा मिलती तो लड़कियां खुद को सुरक्षित महसूस कर सकती थीं। तब शायद, ये गंभीर घटनाएं टल जातीं मगर राज्य की कानून-व्यवस्था को लगता है कि तकवा ही मार गया है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि अब तक दलित महिलाओं के साथ, बलात्कार के सबसे ज्यादा मामले उत्तर प्रदेश में और आदिवासी महिलाओं के साथ बुधम की घटनाएं मध्य प्रदेश में होती रही हैं। 2011 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, नाबालिग बच्चियों के साथ बलात्कार के अधिकतम मामले (26-27) मध्य प्रदेश में ही हुए। पिछले कई सालों से नाबालिग बच्चियों के साथ बलात्कार के मामलों में मध्य प्रदेश अग्रत रहा है।

दिल्ली से गुड़गांव, फरीदाबाद, रोहतक, करनाल और चंडीगढ़ तक बहुमंजिला इमारतें दरअसल, हरियाणा के विकास की भ्रामक छवि हैं। सब यह है कि सीमेट के जंगल में राजनेताओं की छत्र-छाया में पल रहे दबंगों की तादाद भी उतनी ही तेजी से बढ़ रही है। दलितों में लगातार बढ़ रही शिक्षा और जागरूकता के कारण वे अपने कानूनी अधिकारों के प्रति पहले से अधिक सजग हुए हैं और समाज में बराबरी और सम्मानपूर्वक जीने की मांग करने लगे हैं, जबकि तथाकथित उच्च जाति के लोग दलित महिलाओं को बलात् हावस का शिकार बना और मनोबल कुचल कर गांव-गांव में उन्हें नीचा दिखाते का प्रयास करते रहते हैं। राज्य की सत्ता भी उच्च जाति के राजनेताओं के हाथों में होने के कारण राज्य में 'अज्ञात की शिकार' सुनने वाला कोई नहीं। ज्यादातर दलित महिलाएं 'खेतों-खतिहनों में या उनके घरों में काम करती हैं, इसलिए उनके बेखौफ, आवारा और बेरोजगार युवकों की आसानी से शिकार बन जाती हैं। दलितों के साथ अत्याचार, उत्पीड़न, दमन और शोषण का इतिहास बहुत पुराना है परन्तु अब दलित समाज चुपचाप सहने और खामोश रहने को तैयार नहीं है। बेटियों से आये दिन बलात्कार अब नाकाबिले बर्दाश्त होता जा रहा है। स्पष्ट है कि अगर समय रहते हरियाणा सरकार, विपक्ष और आम समाज ने मिलकर अवोद्य और विशेषकर दलित लड़कियों की सुरक्षा के समुचित समाधान नहीं ढूँढ़े तो महिलाएं अपनी आत्म रक्षा में खुद ही हथियार उठाने के लिए विवश होंगी और तब बलात्कारियों को सजा से कोई

जान की आफत बनती छेड़खानी

मुख्य
सरोजिनी बिष्ट

कानून के डर को टेंगा दिखाते हुए मनचलों और दुकर्मियों के बढ़ते हौसलों ने हमारी बेटियों की सुरक्षा पर सवालिया निशान लगा दिया है। कभी इनकी हरकतों ने किसी की जान ले ली तो कभी किसी को जिंदा तक जला डाला गया। पिछले दिनों बिहार शरीफ में घटी दर्दनाक घटना हमारे सामने है जहां पंजी की एक छात्रा को कुछ मनचलों ने इसीलिए जिंदा जला दिया क्योंकि वह अपने साथ होने वाली विभिन्न हरकत का विरोध कर रही थी। चार लड़कों ने जब उसके साथ जबरदस्ती करने की कोशिश की और लड़की के साहस के आगे वे सफल न हो पाए तो अपनी करतूत पर परदा डालने के लिए लड़की ने उसे जिंदा जला डाला। हालांकि काफी हद तक जल जाने के बावजूद पीड़ित ने आरोपियों के खिलाफ बयान दे दिया। एक दूसरी घटना में बिहार के ही सीतामढ़ी की विज्ञान की एक होनहार छात्रा उन मनचलों से परेशान थी जो उसे कॉलेज आते-जाते परेशान करते थे। यहां तक उन्होंने डरा धमकाकर उसकी अश्लील तस्वीरें भी खींचीं। भयभीत होने की बजाए छात्रा ने हिम्मत दिखाते हुए मनचलों के खिलाफ पुलिस में शिकायत दर्ज करवाई परंतु नाकारा पुलिस ने लड़की के खिलाफ कोई कार्रवाई करना उचित नहीं समझा। पुलिस के असहयोग और मनचलों के चुनंद होते हौसलों से हारी छात्रा ने अंततः 28 अगस्त को आत्महत्या कर ली। भारी जनदबाव और प्रशासन के हस्तक्षेप के बाद पुलिस भले अब इस मामले में मुस्तैद हुई हो लेकिन उसकी मौत के जिम्मेवार जितने थे दुश्चरित्र लड़के हैं उतनी ही पुलिस भी। कुछ समय पहले जालंधर (पंजाब) के एमसीएम पॉलिटेक्निक कॉलेज की बॉटेक की एक छात्रा की आत्महत्या का मामला भी सामने आ चुका है। सुसाइड नोट में उसने उन लड़कों का नाम भी उजागर किया था जो उसे कई दिनों से परेशान कर रहे थे लेकिन विरोध और शिकायत के बावजूद लड़कों की हिम्मत बढ़ती गई।

खिलाफ शिकायत करने का साहस करती भी हैं तो अक्सर उसे इसकी कीमत चुकानी पड़ जाती है। सवाल है कि छेड़खानों की बढ़ती घटनाएं क्या हमारे कानून के उस कमजोर पक्ष का परिणाम हैं जहां छेड़खानी करने वालों के विरुद्ध कड़ी सजा का प्रावधान नहीं है या समाज के लगातार पतन की ओर जाने का संकेत? कारण कारण चाहे जो हों, परिणाम सामने हैं। जहां एक तरफ पुरुष पारिवारिकता और महिला विरोधी मानसिकता से संघर्ष जारी है, वहीं कहीं इतना सामाजिक दबाव हावी है कि लड़कियां मानसिक यातना के चलते जान तक गंवा दे रही हैं। किसी लड़की को डरा-धमकाकर अश्लील तस्वीरें खींचना और फिर सोशल साइट्स के जरिए उसे बयाना कराना जैसी हरकतें उसके मान सम्मान को तहस-नहस करने के लिए काफी हैं।



कपूर से शासन-व्यवस्था से न्याय न मिलने की उम्मीद पीड़ित लड़की को जानलेवा कदम उठाने के लिए मजबूर कर रही है। लेकिन सवाल है कि इसी सभ्य समाज का अंग वे मनचले भी हैं जो लड़कियों को अपने मनोरंजन का साधन मानते हैं और इसी सभ्य समाज का अंग वे भी हैं जो पीड़ित की लड़ाई लड़ने की बजाए उसका मनोबल तोड़कर रख देते हैं।

निश्चित ही यह हमारे सिस्टम की नाकामी की ही दर्शाता है। एक ओर जोर-शोर से बेटियों को बचाने की मुहिम चलाई जाती है तो दूसरी ओर जीवन रक्षा की गुहार लगाने वाली बेटियों की आवाज अनसुनी कर दी जाती है। ज्यादातर घटनाओं में यौन शोषण, बलात्कार, छेड़खाने की

शिकार युवतियां अपने साथ हुई घटना से ज्यादा उद्विग्न उस लिखली व्यवस्था से होती हैं, जहां उन्हें भी एक मुजरिम की भांति कठघरे में खड़ा कर दिया जाता है। कभी उसके स्वतंत्र मिजाज तो कभी उसके आधुनिक कपड़ों को उसके साथ घटी घटना का नतीजा मानने के बेहूदा उदाहरण भी हमारे सामने हैं और एक शर्मनाक बयान यह भी कि यदि कोई लड़का किसी लड़की को सेक्सि कहकर छेड़ता है तो लड़की को क्रोधित होने की बजाए यह मानना चाहिए कि दूसरे अर्थों में वह उसे खबसूरत और आकर्षक ही कह रहा है। इस तरह के बयान क्या मनचलों का मनोबल बढ़ाने के लिए काफी नहीं? एक तरफ हमारी बेटियां छेड़खानी और अश्लील हरकतों की शिकार होकर अपनी जिंदगी तक को दांव पर लगाने को मजबूर हो रही हैं तो दूसरी तरफ जिम्मेदार पक्ष पर बैठे लोग लड़कियों में लड़ने का हौसला बढ़ाने के बजाए गैर जिम्मेदाराना रवैया और बयानबाजी करके दोगली मानसिकता का परिचय दे रहे हैं।

इस मामले में झारखंड के धनबाद का बहुचर्चित तेजाब कांड की भी चर्चा प्रारंभिक है जहां एक लड़की मोहल्ले के मनचलों की छेड़खानी और मानसिक शोषण का शिकार होती है और जब इसका विरोध करती है तो उसके चेहरे को तेजाब से जला दिया जाता है। उक्त जुझारू लड़की हालांकि आज भी अपने खिलाफ हुई हिंसा की लड़ाई लड़ रही है लेकिन इस घटना के सालों बाद भी वह अपनी पीड़ा से उबर नहीं पाई है। इन सारी स्थितियों के मद्देनजर यही कहा जा सकता है कि भले ही काफी हद तक हमने अपनी लाडलियों को अपना भविष्य बनाने की खातिर घर की चाहरदीवारी से आगे का रास्ता चुनने की इजाजत दे दी हो, फिर भी हमारा समाज उनके प्रति इतना उदार नहीं हो पाया जितने की वे आकांक्षी और हकदार हैं। बचपन से ही हमारी बेटियों को 'मर्यादा' में रहने का पाठ पढ़ाया जाता है, 'इज्जत' की दुहाई दी जाती है लेकिन वेतों के मामले में इस तरह के पाठ की कोई अहमियत नहीं समझी जाती। तभी तो लड़कियों से खिलवाड़ करने वाले लड़कों की विभिन्न मानसिकता और क्रूरता सारी हदें पार कर जाती है। निश्चित ही लड़कियों को उपभोग का वस्तु मानकर इस तरह का कृत्य करने वाले बीमार मानसिकता के ही हो सकते हैं।

बहरहाल, बढ़ते अपराध के मद्देनजर लड़कियों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा का मुद्दा आज अहम हो चला है। निश्चित ही कड़े कानूनी प्रावधान के साथ सामाजिक प्रयासों से ही इन अपराधों पर अंकुश लगाना संभव हो पाएगा। लेकिन घर-परिवार का परिवेश भी इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है।

Rashtriya Sahara, October 10, 2012, P.10

Set up helplines, women's cell in districts, Centre tells Haryana

Experts call for special police training to deal with rape victims

Sandeep Joshi

NEW DELHI: In the wake of a spurt in the number of rape cases being reported from Haryana, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the State government to set up a women's cell in every district and ask the State police chief to take action against district police chiefs who fail to act against such crimes. The Ministry has also asked Haryana to set up anti-stalking helplines and instruct its police officers to act promptly in cases related to crime against women by registering first information reports, besides sensitising the police force towards plight of the rape victims. All District Superintendents of Police have been told to report the Director General of Police everyday if there

is any case related to crime against a woman in their area of jurisdiction. Besides deputing women police personnel to deal with such cases, the Superintendents of Police have been asked to send action taken reports on a daily basis. "We have asked the Haryana government to be more vigilant in places where frequent incidents of crime against women are reported. We have also asked Haryana to start anti-stalking helplines immediately to offer help to those who are in distress," a senior Ministry official said. Experts feel it is high time the State police was given special training to tackle cases related to crime against women, particularly when it comes to dealing with rape victims. However, women activists blame narrow caste-based and vote-bank politics in Ha-

ryana and other States as the root cause behind callous and insensitive attitude of political parties and the State police in dealing with rape victims. "We still follow the outdated system of investigating rape cases where victims are subjected to all kinds of humiliation and social pressures. The police need to go out of their way to comfort rape victims and put in extra effort to ensure the accused are severely penalised. The investigation process in rape cases is very crucial," said former Delhi police chief and former Border Security Force Director General Ajai Raj Sharma. Lambasting the Congress and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) for playing vote-bank politics in Haryana by not taking on the Khap panchayats for their anti-women diktats, Communist Party of India

(Marxist) leader and women rights activist Brinda Karat accused the Centre of ignoring a draft report on how to deal with growing cases of sexual assault on women. "It has been three years, but the government is yet to act on the report presented by women's organisation that talks about various changes that are required in the laws and measures to be taken to check this menace," Ms. Karat said. Pointing out that low conviction rate in rape cases was a major reason behind this growing menace, Ms. Karat said the police also need to be penalised for not filing FIRs or late reporting of rape cases. "It is not due to absence of law...it is the lack of political will and police-politician nexus that denies justice to rape victims. Unless the society wakes up to this challenge, nothing is going to change," she added.

The Hindu, October 15, 2012, P.9

हरियाणा सरकार हुई सख्त, बनी बहुआयामी रणनीति

जगरण ब्यूरो, चंडीगढ़ : हरियाणा सरकार ने महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराधों पर प्रभावी ढंग से अंकुश लगाने तथा ऐसे मामलों से सख्ती से निपटने के लिए कई तरह के कदम उठाने का निर्णय किया है। मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा ने इस संबंध में बहुआयामी रणनीति अपनाने के निर्देश दिए हैं। यह जानकारी मुख्य सचिव प्रोफेक्टर चौधरी ने बुधवार को यहां एक प्रेस वार्ता के दौरान दी। उन्होंने कहा कि मुख्यमंत्री ने ऐसी घटनाओं पर कड़ा संज्ञान लिया है और वह

महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराध

स्थिति से बेहद विचलित हैं। मुख्यमंत्री के दिशानिर्देशानुसार राज्य में ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने तथा सख्ती से निपटने के लिए नीतिगत निर्णय लेने के लिए उन्होंने आज गृह विभाग, पुलिस महानिदेशक तथा अतिरिक्त महानिदेशक सीआईडी के साथ लंबी बैठक की। बैठक में तीन तरह के नीतिगत निर्णय लेने की सिफारिशें की गईं। पहला यह कि ऐसी

घटनाओं की जांच, मॉनिटरिंग तथा महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराधों के अभियोजन के लिए जिला स्तर पर एक कमेटी बनाई जाएगी, जो महीने में दो बार समीक्षा करेगी। कमेटी में जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, पुलिस अधीक्षक एवं जिला न्यायवादी शामिल होंगे बैठक में महिलाओं के विरुद्ध हो रहे जघन्य अपराधों को फास्ट ट्रैक न्यायालयों में भेजने का अनुरोध पंजाब एवं हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय से करने का निर्णय लिया गया है ताकि पीड़ित को जल्दी से जल्दी न्याय मिल सके।

Dainik Jagran, October 05, 2012, P.12

Haryana saw 60 rape cases a month in 2011

19 Rapes Over Last Month Not State's Worst Record, It Witnessed 725 Sexual Assault Incidents Last Yr

Supriya Sharma | TNN

Sonepat (Haryana): They were meeting to discuss how to calibrate their demand for reservations in government jobs. But the 100-odd old men, all clad in white, some turbaned, gathered in a dharamshala 40 km from Delhi, as part of Sarv Jaat Khap Panchayat, a community body of Haryana's Jats, spent the bulk of their time debating whether girls should be married young — well below the officially permissible age of 18.

Nineteen rapes in the last one month in Haryana forced a change in the agenda of the khap meeting. The rapes drew a flurry of responses: Congress president Sonia Gandhi visited a victim, khap panchayat leader Sube Singh suggested lowering of marriageable age of girls to prevent rape which was endorsed by former chief minister and INLD leader Om Prakash Chautala. He claimed this was done during the Mughal rule to save the honour of women.

But a look at the National

Crime Records Bureau data shows that if a rise in violence against women constitutes a return to the dark age, Haryana has not abruptly slipped into it — it was always there.

Last year, 725 women were raped in the state — an average of 60 women per month. This means the reported figure of 19 rapes over the last month is not the state's worst. Since 2005, 50 women have been raped every month, barring 2007 when the number came down to 40.

Over the last two years, the average has risen to 60 victims per month. Whether or not the media and politicians take note, violence against women is persistent and unrelenting — and not just in the state of Haryana.

In fact, a comparative analysis shows that some of Haryana's neighbouring states fare worse.

While Haryana has a rape incidence of 6.11, which means 6 rape victims per 1 lakh women, Madhya Pradesh has an incidence of 9.7, and Delhi 7.06. Rajasthan,

SHAMEFUL STATS



CALLING THE SHOTS: An elderly man at a khap panchayat in Sonipat, Haryana



Rate of crime calculated using population data from Census 2011

Total rape cases	Rate
MP	3,396 (9.7%)
Delhi	549 (7.06%)
Haryana	725 (6.11%)
Rajasthan	1,757 (5.32%)
Punjab	473 (3.61%)
UP	2,040 (2.14%)

Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have lower incidence: 3.61, 5.32, 2.41 per lakh women.

Ranked for the incidence of rape, Haryana is tenth, Madhya Pradesh is fourth and Delhi seventh.

The states with the highest incidence of rape are Miz-

oram, Tripura and Assam. But the higher incidence could be a reflection of better reporting of cases of violence. The more patriarchal the society the greater the social stigma, and the lesser chance that a woman would report rape.

For instance, the 16-year-old Dalit girl gangraped in Hissar didn't confide in her parents for ten days. And when she did, her father committed suicide. This case was the first to be reported widely, and the outrage that followed, said local reporters, alerted them to every instance of rape, even those they would otherwise overlook.

Although there are no figures available that suggest this, the media glare has led most people to believe there has been an exceptional spike in cases of rape in Haryana.

"Never before have so many rapes happened. If they had, there would have been *hungama*," said Santosh Dahiya, a college professor who is president of the women's cell of khap panchayats in Haryana and was the only woman

who spoke at the khap meeting on Friday, arguing against lowering the marriage age.

Another speaker, Rajjeet Singh Malik, appeared to take a similar view. "A rapist has no age. He could be 60-years-old or 30-years-old. His victim could be a girl of three, 10 years, or a woman of 60 years. Lowering the marriage age would not bring down instances of rape," he said in a calm, assured voice, before hastening to add, "But I still suggest we ask for a concession (in the Hindu Marriage Act). Since a girl's biological development is complete by the age of 12-13, if her parents wish to marry her, they should be allowed to do so."

Two hours later, the meeting remained inconclusive. But the idea had not been dropped. The jat leaders told the media that they needed to consult people from other communities.

"We would call a Sarv Jaat (all caste) meeting very soon," said Kuldeep Singh Danda, the secretary of the khap panchayat.

The Times of India, October 14, 2012, P.20

2 rapes a day in Capital ring alarm bells

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL ■
NEW DELHI

Rape cases have registered an alarming increase in the current year in the Capital with two such cases reported daily on an average.

The latest data provided by Delhi Police reveals that 580 rape cases, including minors, have been reported till October 24, as compared to 482 in 2011. Statistics suggest that two rape cases every three days were reported last year.

According to the police records, 568 cases of rape were reported in 2011 compared to 507

in 2010. Data of the last three years indicate that there has been no let up in sexual crime against women in the national Capital.

"The data shows that every day two to three rape cases are being reported, while in 2011, two cases were reported in three days," a senior police official said. Senior officials said that in most of these cases, the accused persons were known to the victims and had easy access to their residence.

Offences are often committed by friends and relatives who lure the victim with false promises.

Neighbours from hell

■ 580 rape cases, including with minors, have been reported till October 24, as compared to 482 in 2011

■ 97.54% of the accused were known to the victims: 58.28% were relatives, 36.46% were neighbours and 2.8% were acquaintances

Many times, offences are committed by unidentified persons and they easily escape arrest.

Such a trend is more serious in nature since women in Delhi face a far greater threat from people known to them. In 2011 alone, 97.54 per cent of the accused knew their victims. Of these cases, 58.28 per cent were relatives, 36.46 per cent were neighbours and 2.8 per cent were acquaintances," a senior official said.

In the year 2010, 3.94 per cent strangers were involved in rapes, whereas the number has declined to 2.46 per cent in the year 2011. "The police had arrested the

accused in most of these cases since the identity of the accused was revealed by the victims themselves," said an official.

Moreover, Delhi Police's decision of allowing women officers to investigate rape cases has been applauded by women activists, a move that will save victims from further humiliation.

But we ought to be clearly concerned about the beating the Capital's image has taken and ashamed of the fact that the city has earned the epithet of the rape capital of the nation; a slur that would make anyone cringe.

The Pioneer, October 30, 2012, P.1

In God's Own Country, women not safe

VR JAYARAJ ■ KOCHI

Number of rape cases going up every passing year, incidents of kidnapping on the rise, more and more complaints of torture of women by husbands and relatives being registered at police stations... Despite the sobriquet of God's Own Country by which it is known in tourism circles, Kerala is not a safe place for women, if data provided by Kerala Police are any indication.

There has been a shocking increase in crimes against women in Kerala in the past two years. On an average, three rape cases are being registered in the State every-day while at least one minor is raped a day. Twenty cases of crimes against women are registered in the police stations of Kerala each day, as per the statistics provided by the Kerala Police's State Crime Records Bureau.

The total number of cases of crimes against women registered in the State five years ago (2007) was 9,381. But

LEAP IN CRIMES IN KERALA					
Year	Total	Rape	Molestation	Kidnap	Dowry death
2007	9,381	500	2,604	166	22
2008	9,706	548	2,756	167	25
2009	9,354	554	2,539	171	21
2010	10,781	617	2,939	175	21
2011	13,279	1,132	3,756	221	15
2012 (till June)	6,798	493	1,904	97	18

6,798 such cases were registered in the first six months of this year. The sudden leap in crimes against women had occurred last year with 13,279 cases being registered in comparison with the 10,781 cases registered in 2010.

As many as 493 rape cases were registered in the State till June this year. The highest number of such cases was registered in northernmost Kasaragod district (51), followed by Malappuram (49), Palakkad (40) and Idukki district (35). Rape cases, which had stayed around 600 a year,

till 2010, had gone up phenomenally in 2011 with 1,132 cases being registered that year.

The Kerala Police had in June last raised objections to the data available with the National Crime Records Bureau which had identified God's Own Country as the most crime-ridden state in the country. The same NCRB report had also found Kerala to be unsafe for women with a crime rate higher than that of Delhi, often described as the most unsafe place in India for females.

"The increase in crimes

against women in the recent times is indeed a matter of worry both to the police and the society in general. What we should note particularly is the fact that there is a corresponding worsening in the overall crime situation," said a senior police official. "This should have something to do with the transformation the society is undergoing," he said.

"Data show that there was a 100 per cent increase in rape of minors in 2011 compared to the previous year. As many as 423 cases of minors' rape were registered last year while this was just 208 in 2010. As many as 210 minors' rapes were registered till June this year which means that it would reach the 2011 level by December. This trend deserves serious attention," he said.

Serious sexual crimes against women by relatives and people known to the victims have also been on the rise in recent times, according to the police. The rape and introduction into flesh trade

of a 15-year-old girl, a higher secondary school student of Paravur near Kochi, last year by her father was a classic example of this trend.

"A 13-year-old girl in Thiruvananthapuram delivered a baby last week. Her stepfather was the culprit. The very next day, another report spoke of another 13-year-old girl getting pregnant in Iritti, Kannur. A 50-year-old neighbour known well to her and her family was responsible for this. This is a very dangerous trend," said journalist-psychologist BS Panicker.

According to him, the increase in crimes against women has something to do with the social transformation taking place as part of globalisation in the economic front. "Economics plays a vital role in the violence against women in the domestic sector while many of the rapes are closely associated with flourishing flesh trade, a byproduct of globalisation," he said.

The Pioneer, October 31, 2012, P.6

Haryana horror: Rape tally now touches 17

Pressure Mounts On State To Prevent Atrocities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kaithal/Karnal/Yamunanagar: A day after Congress chief Sonia Gandhi visited the family of a minor dalit girl who killed herself after being raped in Haryana's Jind district, another 19-year-old dalit girl who is five months pregnant was abducted and gang-raped by two upper-caste youth in Kalayat town in Kaithal district. One more case of assault in May was reported late on Tuesday and, additionally, a 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped in Yamunanagar late on Monday, taking the number of such cases to 17.

The latest incident puts Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, whose government has been accused of failing to prevent growing atrocities against women, in a tight spot. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights on Wednesday demanded Hooda's immediate intervention to ensure prompt investigation, adequate rehabilitation and protection of the victims, their families and witnesses.

The May 21 gang rape, in Bijna in Karnal, was followed by suicide of the girl's father. Police said the case was registered five months

A MONTH OF RAPES
Haryana has 21 districts

Total 17 cases of rape registered between Sept 9 & Oct 9

After the crime and they arrested two youth on Wednesday. The girl who lodged the complaint said the accused had threatened her with death if she or her family approached the police.

The Kaithal rape victim, in a complaint filed by her father on Tuesday, alleged she was abducted from the fields near her house and taken to a nearby village in a car on October 8. The complainant added she was raped the entire night and dumped near her house the next morning.

Both the accused, Pawan and Rakesh, who belong to the same town, were arrested on Tuesday and sent to two-day police remand.

*Victim was a dalit

The Times of India, October 11, 2012, P.11

Four women raped every day in Andhra Pradesh, reveals data

754 incidents have been reported in year's first six months

Swathi.V

HYDERABAD: While the whole country is shocked at the news of 15 rape incidents in Haryana in the past one month, Andhra Pradesh, which outdoes it many times, is basking in the shadow of relative anonymity.

If one is to be outraged by numbers, there are more outrageous numbers here in the State, with incidents of rape committed against Dalits and Adivasis themselves amounting to 14 per month!

According to the latest data from the police records for the current year, about four women are raped every day in the State, and more than 125 women per month.

Even put as a percentage to population, this figure will make Haryana's 15 appear insignificant.

A total of 754 incidents of rape have been reported in the first six months of this year from across the State.

No prizes for guessing the crime capital of the State in terms of rape incidents. It is the State capital itself with 79 incidents of rape reported from Hyderabad and Cyberabad commissionerates during the period.

Closely behind is West Godavari district with 72 incidents. Adilabad and Khammam stand third and fourth with 60 and 46 incidents respectively.

Since 2002, no single year has recorded fewer than 75 reported incidents of rape per month on an average in the State.

As per the latest annual data available on the National Crime Records Bureau website for the year 2011, 1,442 incidents of rape have been reported from Andhra Pradesh.

However, according to the statistics uploaded onto the CID website, the figure stands at 1,387 for the same year. Even at 1,387, it is more than 115 incidents in an average month!

While the figures for the past decade showed a declining trend between 2002 and 2004, the latter years have shown a phenomenal rise in crime. From 898 in 2005, reported incidents of rape have risen to 1,387 (as per AP Police) in 2011, clocking over 54 percent increase over six years.

There is a bigger jump in the incidents of rape committed against Dalit and Adivasi women during the period.

From 92 cases recorded in 2002, the incidents have risen to 169 in 2011, clocking almost 84 per cent increase in ten years.

This, coupled with incidents from Adivasi-majority districts is cause for concern.

The Hindu, October 13, 2012, P.8

3.4 Women in Difficult Circumstances/ Women in Distress

HORROR SHELTER

Report nails cops, PWD for 'unsafe' remand conditions

PRAMOD CHUNHUWAR
Mumbai

The divisional deputy commissioner of the Women and Child Development (WCD) department of Konkan region has blamed the PWD and police department for not cooperating in providing better security at the women's shelter home at Mankhurd from where more than 30 inmates escaped recently.

Apparently, long periods of detention, lack of proper police escort, overcrowding and staff shortage had made the inmates upset and this is

shelter home to the PWD department," Pokharkar has conveyed to government.

Women inmates who are freed from brothels are generally sent to this shelter home. Under the Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act (PITA), these women are awarded six months or a year's detention.

Most of them are generally from out of Maharashtra especially West Bengal or Bangladesh. As per court order they are later sent to their homes to be handed over to their parents with police escort. "But despite repeated reminders, the police failed to provide the necessary escort. This also caused serious discontent among inmates and the subsequent escape," Pokharkar has pointed out.

Earlier too, on September 10 this year 17 women had fled. At that time an inquiry report was submitted and it was recommended that a full-time resident Women Superintendent be appointed there. But nothing to that effect took place. "On October 7, despite our stiff opposition, we are asked to accommodate 93 inmates. At that time we had warned them this would create security problems. Police then give a few women police constable and also posted male constable at the gates. But the inmates overpowered them and fled," an official said.

the main reason behind their fleeing the shelter home, a preliminary report pointed out.

B P Pokharkar, Deputy Commissioner of WCD for Konkan region visited Navjeevan Shelter home on Sunday and Monday. After a detailed discussion and inspection, he has submitted an internal report to the State Government wherein he has blamed the PWD for ignoring its repeated requests for increasing the height of the boundary wall of the shelter home. Currently, the wall is only 5 feet height. "The shelter home has submitted a proposal to strengthen grills and windows of the

FREE PRESS EXCLUSIVE

The Free Press, October 31, 2012, P.7

3.5 Women Safety/ Support Services

महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए हेल्पलाइन शुरू

कांग्रेस महिला मोर्चा महासचिव ने दी पीड़ित परिवार को सात्वना

कलायत, 15 अक्टूबर (निस)। कांग्रेस सरकार महिला व लड़कियों की सुरक्षा के लिए पूरी तरह से सजग है तथा उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए जहाँ पुलिस अधिकारियों को कड़े निर्देश दिए गए हैं वहीं मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा द्वारा महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए 24 घंटे हेल्पलाइन शुरू की गई है। उक्त शब्द कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी व मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा के निर्देश पर दुर्घटना मामलों में पीड़ित परिवार को संवेदना व हौसला देने के लिए टीम के साथ पहुंची कांग्रेस महिला मोर्चा की राष्ट्रीय महासचिव एवं हरियाणा प्रभारी ओनिका महरोत्रा व प्रदेश अध्यक्ष एवं करनाल की विधायक सुमिता सिंह ने पत्रकारों को बताया। इस अवसर पर उनके साथ महिला प्रदेश महासचिव सुमन दहिया व जिला प्रधान मूर्ति देवी भी मौजूद थीं। राष्ट्रीय महासचिव महरोत्रा व प्रदेश अध्यक्ष सुमिता सिंह ने कहा कि एक 16 वर्ष की बच्ची के साथ इस तरह का हादसा हुआ जिससे उन्हें भारी दुःख पहुंचा तथा इस दुःख को बढ़ी में कांग्रेस परिवार के साथ साथ वे उनके साथ हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्होंने पीड़ित परिवार से अकेले में बैठकर बात की है तथा पीड़ित परिवार प्रशासन व पुलिस की कार्रवाई से संतुष्ट है। सरकार व प्रशासन की तरफ से उन्हें हर संभव मदद दी जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि इस तरह के आपराधिक मामलों को रोकने के लिए मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा पूरी तरह से सजग हैं तथा उन्होंने प्रदेश पुलिस के सभी आईजी की बैठक लेकर इस तरह के अपराध न होने देने के कड़े निर्देश दिए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा इस प्रकार के अपराध रोकने के लिए अपराधियों का तीव्र ट्रैपल सुनिश्चित करने के कई कदमों के साथ साथ प्रदेश की महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए एक हेल्पलाइन शुरू की है। महिला प्रदेश सचिव सुमन दहिया ने कहा कि यह एक अति संवेदनशील मामला है तथा कांग्रेस ने महिला जिला अध्यक्षों को भी निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि वे गांव गांव जाकर कैप लगाकर महिलाओं को अधिक से अधिक जागरूक करें व महिलाओं के अधिकारों के लिए कानून संबंधी जानकारी दें। उन्होंने कहा कि इस तरह के अपराधों को रोकने के लिए सामाजिक संगठन व गैर सरकारी संस्था का सहयोग भी जरूरी है तथा समाज के आम व युवा वर्ग को महिला व बच्चियों को बहन-भेटी सम्बन्धना चाहिए ताकि इस तरह की पुनरावृत्ति न हो। इस अवसर पर महिला प्रदेश सचिव सुमन दहिया, जिला प्रधान मूर्ति देवी के साथ कई गणमान्य लोग मौजूद थे।



सोमवार को पत्रकारों से बातचीत करती कांग्रेस महिला मोर्चा की राष्ट्रीय महासचिव एवं हरियाणा प्रभारी ओनिका महरोत्रा व प्रदेश अध्यक्ष एवं करनाल की विधायक सुमिता सिंह।

Dainik Tribune, October 15, 2012, P.7

Train girls in self-defence, women's panel tells Hooda govt

Deepender Deswal | TNN

Rohtak: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) has advised the Haryana government to seek Directorate of Civil Defence's help in imparting self-defence training to girls to fight rising crimes against women in the state.

"They should also be allowed to take part in large-scale programmes in self-defence. The services of the Directorate of Civil Defence can be solicited for this purpose," NCPDR chairperson Shantha Sinha wrote to CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Wednesday. She underlined the need for encouraging girls to feel empowered to resist any harassment, abuse, stalking and other forms of sexual violence.

Sinha suggested that services of civil society organizations and NGOs can also be sought. "There is a need to create an atmosphere where girls feel secure, wanted and not discriminated against."

The NCPDR chief urged the CM to intervene in such cases to ensure time-bound investigation, care, counselling, interim relief, rehabilitation and protection of the victims, their families and witnesses. "It is strongly felt that each of the cases is to be reviewed periodically and taken to its logical conclusion. The investigating and prosecuting agencies are to be given directions to render speedy justice. Strong actions need to be taken against the culprits to inculcate a sense of security among victims."

She underlined the need for having a grievance redressal mechanism at panchayat, block and district levels.

The Times of India, October 11, 2012, P.11

हर जिले में महिला प्रकोष्ठ बनाए हरियाणा : केंद्र

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। महिलाओं के खिलाफ लगातार हो रहे अपराधों से चिंतित केंद्र ने हरियाणा सरकार से कहा है कि वह शिक्षात्मक दर्ज कराने के लिए हर जिले में महिला प्रकोष्ठ स्थापित करें। हेल्प लाइन भी चालू करें। राज्य में कथित बलात्कार की कई घटनाओं के बाद संग्राम अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी के हरियाणा दौरे के बाद केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा ये निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं।

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा सरकार को पत्र भेज कर कहा है कि वह किसी महिला के संकट में होने की स्थिति में उसकी ओर से की जाने वाली फोन कॉल को प्राथमिकता दे और तुरंत प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर महिलाओं के खिलाफ होने वाले सभी अपराधों की जांच करें। राज्य सरकार से कहा गया है कि वह हर जिले के पुलिस अधीक्षक को निर्देश दे कि वे रोजाना पुलिस महानिदेशक को जानकारी दें कि उनके अधिकार क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के खिलाफ कोई अपराध हुआ है या नहीं। साथ ही, महानिदेशक को कार्रवाई रफ्तक से और शिक्षात्मक दर्ज करने के लिए महिला पुलिस कर्मियों की तैनाती करें। हरियाणा सरकार को सलाह दी गई है कि जिन जगहों पर महिलाओं के खिलाफ लगातार अपराध हो रहे हैं, वहाँ अधिक से अधिक पुलिस बल की तैनाती की जाए ताकि जनता में विश्वास का संचार हो सके। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, राज्य सरकार से कहा गया है कि वह एक विशेष हेल्प लाइन शुरू करे, जहाँ संकटग्रस्त महिला मदद के लिए फोन कर सके। राज्य में कथित बलात्कार की कई घटनाओं के बाद संग्राम अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी के हरियाणा दौरे के बाद ये निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं।

► सोनिया गांधी के हरियाणा दौरे के बाद जारी किए गए ये निर्देश

Rashtriya Sahara, October 13, 2012, P.11

No toilet, no bride, says Ramesh

KOTA (Rajasthan). Oct 21 - Days after he kicked up a row by stating that there are more temples than toilets in India, Union Minister Jai Ram Ramesh today urged women not to get married into families which do not have toilets in their homes.

"Don't get married in a house where there is no toilet," the Rural Development and Water and Sanitation Minister said while addressing locals, majority of whom were women, at Khajuri village near Kota and cited a slogan "No toilet, no bride".

"You consult the astrologers about rahu-keetu (planetary positions) to know about suitability of stars before getting married. You should also look whether there is a toilet at your groom's home before you decide to get married," he said.

Later Ramesh launched the third edition of Nirmal Bharat Yatra at Sangod, a small town, in Kota district.

Launching the Yatra, he also cited a slogan, "No toilet, no bride", coined by the Haryana Government to promote sanitation there. Ramesh also narrated the story of a woman - Anita Narre - who left her husband's home in Madhya Pradesh two days after marriage in protest against not having toilet there.

Noting that sanitation is an issue related to women's dignity and safety, Ramesh said the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan is a people's movement aiming to eradicate the menace of open defecation in ten years. He criticised Rajasthan for not doing enough for providing proper sanitation facilities to the people. Pointing out that out of 9,177 Gram Panchayats, only 321 have become open defecation free in the states, Ramesh asked the State authorities to come out with a plan to make the State open defecation free in five years.

Meanwhile, members of saffron outfits showed black flags to Ramesh at various places protesting against his temple and toilet remarks. The minister had recently said that the country has more temples than toilets, leading to protests by right wing Hindu outfits. - PTI

The Assam Tribune, Oct 25, 2012, P.10

Railway steps up security for women

Darpan Singh

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NEW DELHI: The railways have stepped up security for passengers, especially women, after an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer was arrested for allegedly misbehaving with a woman—an employee of an MNC in Noida—on board an AC coach of a Delhi-Lucknow train on Monday.

"All important trains have mobile squads of either our Railway Protection Force (RPF) or the states' Government Railway Police (GRP). Instructions have been issued to maintain extra vigilance and check such cases in future," said a senior northern railway official.

"We're making passengers aware that there are attendants in all AC coaches. They can be spoken to in case any passenger perceives any threat or feels insecure," he said.

"Any complaints of crime can be lodged at the next major sta-

PROBLEM AREAS



■ Railway officials cite shortage of staff as one of the major problems in tackling safety issues.

HT FILE PHOTO

- Half the trains have no security escort
- There is no coordination between RPF and GRP
- RPF is responsible for detection of crime and protection of railway property and passengers
- GRP has the powers to lodge FIRs, investigate, and arrest offenders.
- RPF says GRP—even after detection of crime—does not lodge cases citing jurisdiction issues.

tion. We have displayed helpline numbers of the railways as well as the GRP in trains and at stations," the official added.

Citing lack of adequate manpower as a major problem, another railway ministry official said, "Our priority is railway board's trains such as Rajdhani and Shatabdi, followed by

express and mail trains run by various zonal railways. Because of staff shortage, small-distance and daytime trains often suffer."

"Also, there is no adequate coordination between RPF and GRP. Efforts are on to introduce a bill in Parliament to transfer handling of all heinous crime cases to RPF," the official said.

RPF is responsible for the detection of crime and protection of passengers but unlike GRP, it does not have the powers to lodge FIRs, investigate, and arrest offenders. RPF has for long been ruing the fact that the GRP—even after detection of crime—does not lodge cases citing jurisdiction issues.

Hindustan Times, October 03, 2012, P.7



हरियाणा पुलिस

सुरक्षित नारी, समृद्ध समाज



- क्या आप को कोई तंग कर रहा है ?
- क्या आप घरेलू हिंसा से पीड़ित हैं ?
- क्या आपके समुदाय वाले आपको दहेज अथवा अन्य किसी कारण से परेशान करते हैं ?

अगर हाँ, तो तुरन्त महिला हेल्पलाइन
1091 पर पुलिस से सम्पर्क करें ।

1091

हरियाणा पुलिस द्वारा जनहित में जारी




Hindustan Times, October 31, 2012, P.11

The piecemeal life of Tirupur's female workers

PF, Job Safety Unheard Of In Garment Export Hub

Rukmini Shrinivasan | 71G

Tirupur: On the factory shop-floors, homes and streets of south India's garment export hub, labour dynamics are changing. As jobs are becoming increasingly atomized and insecure, local labour is looking for better options allowing migrants from the north to fill the void.

Thirty kilometers from Tirupur, 850 women are at work in the Thingalur factory of Maxwell Industries, which produces underwear for its VIP brand.



Unmarried women are hired on a three-year contract and paid a fraction of their wages, ostensibly to give them a lump-sum at the end of their contracts with which they could pay for their own weddings

Industrial towns in Tamil Nadu gained notoriety for their use of a scheme that union leaders say is essentially bonded labour — the "Sumangali Scheme" that kept unmarried women on a three-year contract during which they were housed in hostel on the factory and paid a fraction of their wages, ostensibly to give them a lump-sum at the end of their contracts with which they could pay for their own weddings.

At many other factories like this one, women are not employed on long contracts; in fact, they have no fixed contract at all, and none of the worker benefits like a Provident Fund that goes with a fixed job.

"We provide subsidized food, free accommodation with security for unmarried girls within the factory compound and free transport for those living outside," says M K Ganesh Bapu, president of the company's spinning and hosiery operations.

Thilakavathi, who joined the factory four years ago as a tailor, has risen to be in charge of the entire shop floor. Her biggest challenge, she says, is labour management — getting workers to give the required production and talking them through health problems.

Across Tirupur, the standard wage for a 12-hour, six-day shift for a skilled worker in a factory is Rs 6,000, with no benefits. Yet a job in a factory, tough as it is with long hours on their feet, is one

that many women in Tirupur deeply covet.

In Laxmi Nagar in the heart of the city, women sit on the doorstep of almost every home, stitching or cutting a stack of fabric that has been outsourced to them as "job work".

A Indrani (40) gets Rs 1.50 per dozen frilly cotton baby frocks that she snips the loose ends from. Every day, she does 30-60 dozens of this type of dress, and gets another Rs 2 per dozen for a slightly more complex job for another type of dress.

"This last year, there's been a big drop in the orders coming to us," she says. Years ago, Indrani worked for a factory with all the benefits that came with it; now she works from home because she can't stand for long hours any more. "The advantage is that I can work from home, but the downside is that I get no benefits. If I'm sick, I don't earn anything that day," she says.

But there are signs that the labour dynamics may be changing in Tirupur. "Squeezing labour has always been the case in Tirupur but now there is a point beyond which the worker cannot be squeezed any further," says J Jeyaranjan, a social scientist who has studied labour in the Tirupur region and is director of the

Chennai-based Institute for Development Alternatives. "This is partly because the NREGA [National Rural Employment Guarantee Act] has raised the reserve price of labour, and also because there is a huge boom in rural non-farm employment in the region," he says. Business owners across the board told TOI that they face a shortage of skilled labour.

For locals from the region, it is no longer a case of all roads leading to Tirupur alone, says Jeyaranjan. Unsurprisingly, half of Tirupur's workers are now migrants from India's north and east, in addition to Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Hirendra Pushti (22) came to Tirupur from his native Baleswar in Odisha with four male relatives four years ago.

"One of them had got a job and then the rest of us followed," he says, while inspecting sheets of cotton for defects at the Maxwell Industries factory.

"The jobs with least benefits and job security are now increasingly becoming occupied by workers from the north," says C Murthy, general secretary of the CITU-affiliated Tirupur Banian Central Workers' Union. This, he adds, makes it more difficult for the local unions to organize them.

महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए हेल्पलाइन

हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा ने पुलिस व प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों के साथ किया मंचन

अपराधियों के विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्रवाई हुई है या नहीं।

जिलास्तर पर महिला डीएसपी या एसआइ; मुख्यमंत्री ने घोषणा की है कि जिलास्तर पर पुलिस को विशेष कानूनी सलाहकारों की सेवाएँ लेने का भी अधिकार होगा, ताकि महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराध में संलिप्त अपराधियों को कड़ी सजा दी जा सके। उन्होंने जिलास्तर पर एक महिला पुलिस उप अधीक्षक या एक महिला निरीक्षक को तैनात किए जाने की भी घोषणा की है।

जागरण दूरे, वंडीगढ़: राज्य में महिलाओं के प्रति बढ़ रहे अपराध खासकर दुर्कर्म को घटनाओं पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा ने शुक्रवार को करिष्ठ पुलिस व प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों के साथ गहन मंचन किया और प्रदेश भर में महिलाओं के लिए हेल्पलाइन शुरू करने की घोषणा की।

उन्होंने अधिकारियों से तमाम पहलुओं पर चर्चा के बाद दुर्कर्म के आरोपियों के विरुद्ध शीघ्र दायल सुनिश्चित करने का निर्देश दिया। बैठक में करीब 12 फैसले किए गए।

मुख्यमंत्री ने अतिरिक्त पुलिस महानिदेशक नियुक्त करने की भी घोषणा की। यह पुलिस अधिकारी पुलिस महानिदेशक को रिपोर्ट करेगा, जो साप्ताहिक आधार पर गृह सचिव को रिपोर्ट प्रेषित करेगा। अतिरिक्त पुलिस महानिदेशक ऐसे मामलों में जांच एवं अभियोजनों का प्रभावी निरीक्षण करने के लिए व्यक्तिगत तौर पर सभी जिलों का दौरा करेगा। वह यह भी सुनिश्चित करेगा कि महिलाओं के विरुद्ध अपराध के पहले मामलों में संलिप्त

एसपी प्रभावित लोगों से करें मुलाकात: मुख्यमंत्री ने पुलिस अधीक्षकों को निर्देश दिया कि वे लोगों को शिकायतों का निवारण करने के लिए अयोजित की जाने वाली बैठकों की तर्ज पर योजना मीडियाकारियों से मिलने का भी विशिष्ट समय निर्धारित करें। महानिरीक्षक और पुलिस अधीक्षक स्तर के अधिकारियों तक लोगों की पहुंच आसान होनी चाहिए। अपराध के किसी भी मामले में उन्हें बिना विलंब प्रभावित व्यक्ति से मिलना चाहिए।

उपायुक्तों को भी रहना होगा सचेत, पीआरओ मिलेंगे: मुख्यमंत्री ने उपायुक्तों को भी सचेत रहने तथा लोगों की

Dainik Jagran, October 13, 2012, P.11

In south Delhi, no public loos for women

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: Delhi still has a long way to go to be a woman-friendly city. And we're not just talking crime here.

A safety audit has found that two busy locations in south Delhi, Hauz Khas and Mehrauli, have no public toilets for women — a basic convenience.

"While Mehrauli has three urinals, there is no toilet for women. This despite it being one of the city's busiest bus terminals as well as a market frequented by many. The bus terminal doesn't even have a toilet for its staff," said the NGO Jagori, which has been commissioned by the women and child development department to conduct the survey.

An ongoing exercise, the audit will cover other parts of south Delhi and then move further afield to the rest of the city.

Its other findings were that

SAFETY AUDIT ALSO FINDS WOMEN AVOID SUBWAYS, DON'T GO TO MARKETS AFTER DARK AND COMPLAIN OF POORLY-LIT STREETS

women refrain from using certain subways in the city due to safety issues, avoid market places after dark and have had to change their routines due to poorly-lit streets.

"The main purpose of this audit is to ensure women feel safe in the city and that there is public participation in achieving the aim. Once the audit is completed, the NGO will send the report to the department. We will then forward it to the agencies concerned for corrective measures," said Kiran Walla, minister for women and child development.

» SAFETY AUDIT, P7

Most women fear visiting markets after dark

NGO AUDIT Hauz Khas market and Mehrauli are the areas women avoid

Neelam Pandey

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NEW DELHI: Due to lack of proper lighting and inadequate security measures, most women in south Delhi feel unsafe about using subways and even some streets.

A women safety audit by NGO Jagori, commissioned by Delhi government's women and child development department, revealed that women refrain from using certain subways in the city due to safety issues.

The assessment points out that women avoid using certain markets as soon as it starts getting dark because vacant spaces are used for gambling and drinking by men.

Poorly-lit stretches have also changed the way women shop. Two markets in both the areas that were covered in the audit were found to be "male-dominated after dark". Most women now prefer shopping during the day due to this.

"The NGO spoke to 150-odd women who use the Hauz Khas and Mehrauli markets frequently and most said they avoid going to the market in late evenings. For instance, a stretch in Hauz Khas leading from the Metro station gate No. 3 to Hauz Khas police station is poorly lit. Women refrain from using the Hauz Khas subway as there are anti-social

SAFETY ISSUES

- This safety audit will be carried out in other south Delhi areas such as Malviya Nagar, Badarpur, Molarband, etc.
- Once the audit is complete, the NGO will send the report to the women and child department. The department will then send the report to the agencies concerned to rectify the problems
- Similar safety audits will be carried out in other parts of the city too

elements present there," said a senior Delhi government official.

During the audit — carried out for over two weeks — the NGO members carried out a 'safety walk' to understand the problem of the area.

"The NGO members found that the space in Mehrauli market lane has reduced and as this is the festive season, it is crowded as well. The nearby bus terminal also lacks proper lighting," the official added.

The audit also pointed out that these areas don't have any facility for the disabled.


"The pavements in Hauz Khas are not disabled-friendly at all. Some of them are broken, while the height of others is not adequate for someone to use it comfortably. At the same time, the accessibility to the Hauz Khas Metro station Gate No 3 is not easy with the street near it used by cars and autos for parking," the official added.

There are no pavements in Mehrauli. The roads are narrower because of encroachments of some shopkeepers and cars.


A stretch in Hauz Khas from the Metro station gate No. 3 to Hauz Khas police station is poorly lit. Women refrain from using the Hauz Khas subway.

A SENIOR OFFICIAL
Delhi government

3.6 Other Miscellaneous Issues



Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India
www.panchayat.nic.in



Panchayati Raj

A Special Gram Sabha on women issues in October 2012

All Gram Panchayats are requested to hold Special Gram Sabha meeting on women-centric issues on any day in October 2012

- Panchayats and Mahila Sabha will take specific action to address problems faced by girls and women such as harassment in public places, domestic violence, early motherhood, inadequate provision of food and medical care etc.
- To give careful attention to issues and concerns of special relevance to females with special focus on access to service such as health, education, employment, birth rate of boys and girls over the last few years, the impact of having a larger number of men than women, the illegality of sex determination of foetus and female foeticide and how to increase the value of girl child through advocacy.
- Mahila Sabha should be constituted to explain the actions which are being taken, and take up issues which women would like to discuss between themselves.
- A ward member preferably a female member will be the Chairperson of the Anganwadi Centre Monitoring Committee.
- The Gram Panchayat Member should closely monitor the registration of pregnant mothers, birth, immunization and other activities and should report the findings at Gram Panchayat meetings.
- Women who are committed to the cause of girl children will be selected as volunteers to work for this cause.
- Block and District Administration will ensure that the meeting dates are suitably fixed so that other officials connected with these issues are present in the meeting.

Active Gram Sabha - for Empowered People and Accountable Panchayats

The Times of India, October 06, 2012, P.13

No toilet, no bride: Jairam

Kota (Rajasthan), Oct. 21: Days after he kicked up a row by stating that there are more temples than toilets in India, rural development and water and sanitation minister Jairam Ramesh on Sunday urged women not to get married into families which do not have toilets in their homes.

"Don't get married in a house where there is no toilet," the rural development and water and sanitation minister said while addressing locals, majority of whom were women, at Khajuri village near Kota and cited a slogan "No toilet, no bride".

"You consult the astrologers about rahu-keetu (planetary positions) to know about suitability of stars before getting married. You should also look whether there is a toilet at your groom's home before you decide to get married," he said.

Later Mr Ramesh launched the third edition of Nirmal Bharat Yatra at Sangod, a small

town, in Kota district.

Launching the Yatra, he also cited a slogan, "No toilet, no bride", coined by the Haryana government to promote sanitation there.

Mr Ramesh also narrated the story of a woman — Anita Narre — who left her husband's home in Madhya Pradesh two days after marriage in protest against not having toilet there.

Noting that sanitation is an issue related to women's dignity and safety, the rural development and water and sanitation minister said the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan is a people's movement aiming to eradicate the menace of open defecation in ten years.

He criticised Rajasthan for not doing enough for providing proper sanitation facilities to the people.

Mr Ramesh asked the Rajasthan authorities to come out with a plan to make the state open defecation free in five years. — PTI

The Asian Age, Oct 22, 2012, P.3

Can transgenders be the 3rd sex, asks SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre and states what could be done to give back the historically and culturally deprived transgenders their fundamental rights and whether they could be categorized as the third sex after male and females.

A bench comprising Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra termed the deprivation of transgenders as a serious matter and issued notices to the governments after hearing brief arguments from senior advocate L Nageshwar Rao, who appeared for the petitioner, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

Discharging its obligation under Section 4(d) of Legal Services Authority Act, 1987, mandating the body to initiate 'social justice litigation', Nalsa said, "Transgenders are deprived of social and cultural participation, are shunned by family and society, have only restricted access to education, health services and public spaces, restricted rights to marry, right to contest elections, right to vote, employment and livelihood opportunities."

"The transgender community, generally known as hijras in India, is treated by society as unnatural and generally as objects of ridicule and even fear on account of superstition. Transgender community is treated as a legal non-entity in violation of rights to equality, non-discrimination, equal opportunity and right to life guaranteed Article 14, 15, 16 and 21 of the Constitution," Nalsa said in its petition filed through advocate Indra Sawhney.

Their discrimination based on their class and gender made the transgender community one of the most deprived and disempowered

groups in the Indian society, it said.

"In view of the constitutional guarantees, the transgender community is entitled to basic rights that is right to personal liberty, dignity, freedom of expression, right to education and empowerment, right against violence, discrimination and exploitation and right to work," Nalsa said.

The statutory legal aid body, which comes to the help of poor and deprived sections of the society, first noticed this problem through its secretary U Sarathchandran when he was attending a UNDP meeting on transgenders here in 2009. Though the meeting focused on preventing spread of AIDS among the transgenders, Sarathchandran noticed the abject discrimination of the group in every sphere of life.

He brought the problem to the notice of the executive committee of Nalsa, which was then headed by Justice Altamas Kabir who now is the Chief Justice of India.

The Times of India, Oct 2012, P.2

SC tells High Courts to take stock of women undertrials

ABRAHAM THOMAS ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked all State High Courts to provide details of women prisoners languishing in jails across the country either for want of bail or a hearing on their appeals.

The court took *suo motu* initiative while hearing the bail petition of a woman accused of murdering her daughter-in-law in April 1998 in Maharashtra. Having been in custody since the date of incident, the accused, Laxmibai Babaram Chikhalkar, had appealed to the Court to grant bail on account of her deteriorating health.

The court enquired from senior advocate Shekhar Naphade who appeared for the accused whether there were similar cases where women accused were languishing in jail for years together. Naphade pointed



As per the National Crime Records Bureau till December 31, 2010, of 3,68,998 prisoners in the country, 15,037 are women of whom a majority are undertrials

out that in the present case, the agony of the accused was aggravated since the Bombay High Court took seven years to decide her appeal.

Appointing Naphade as *amicus curiae*, the bench of Justices KS Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra issued notices to all High Courts to respond on the condition of women prisoners lodged in jails under their jurisdiction.

Under the Criminal Procedure Code, women

accused are entitled to special consideration for grant of bail. Section 437(1) of CrPC provides that Courts may direct a person to be released on bail if such person is "under the age of 16 years or is a woman or is sick or infirm".

Jails meant exclusively for women prisoners are operational at Tamil Nadu (2), Andhra Pradesh (2), Kerala (2), Rajasthan (2), West Bengal (2), Bihar (1),

Maharashtra (1), Odisha (1), Punjab (1), Tripura (1), Uttar Pradesh (1) and Delhi. At present, the capacity for women inmates is the highest in Tamil Nadu (1,070) followed by Uttar Pradesh (420), West Bengal and Delhi (400 each), Rajasthan (350), Andhra Pradesh (308), Maharashtra (262), Punjab (150), Bihar (83), Kerala (72), Odisha (55) and Tripura (30).

As per the National Crime Records Bureau till December 31, 2010, of 3,68,998 prisoners in the country, 15,037 are women of whom a majority are undertrials (about 10,252). Around 2,515 women were undergoing sentences of life imprisonment at various prisons in the country during this period. The data further indicated that of the 1,436 unnatural and natural deaths reported from prisons during 2010, 34 female inmates died, five being suicidal in nature. —

The Pioneer, October 16, 2012, P.5

Caste Outfit to 'Teach' Against Inter-caste Marriages in Schools

Express News Service

Coimbatore: At a time when framers of academic curriculum are seeking to reinforce lessons on the need for a casteless society, a little known outfit Kongu Vellala Gounder Peravai (KVGP) has resolved to ensure that children unlearned poet Bharathiar's famous verses 'Jaathigal Illai Adi Paapa' (there is no caste, oh child).

The outfit, which claims to represent a section of the backward Kongu Vellala Gounder community - one of the dominant castes in the western districts of Tamil Nadu, at its meeting on Sunday here, adopted a resolution to campaign in schools and colleges against inter-caste marriages.

"We will go from school to school and college to col-

lege to raise awareness against marrying someone belonging to another caste.

At the end of the campaign next year, we will organise an anti inter-caste marriage conference in Tirupur," the Kongu Vellala Gounder Peravai president R Manikandan said. The campaign will be conducted in Karur, Namakkal, Erode, Dindigul, Salem and Krishnagiri districts.

Members of the Peravai who attended the meeting also took a pledge against inter-caste marriages.

The pledge was taken even as cadres of another fringe group Dravidar Viduthalai Iyakkam protested the Kongu Vellala Gounder Peravai's narrow minded approach to the caste issue.

Manikandan claimed that inter-caste marriages were

diluting the Kongu community's individuality and identity.

"The Government must stop providing financial assistance for inter-caste marriage couples," he demanded.

In a strange argument, he said inter-caste marriages as well as granting equal rights to women in sharing family property were affecting the "life style" of the Kongu Vellala Gounder people.

"To protect our community from such dilution, a separate law must be en-

KVGP CLAN CLAIMS THAT WOMEN OF THE COMMUNITY MUST BE MANDATED TO FORSAKE THEIR RIGHT TO PROPERTY

acted. Besides, women of the community must be mandated to forsake their right to property.

We will also spread awareness on the richness of our lifestyle and tradition including our hospitality," he added.

Claiming that the Kongu Vellala Gounders constituted a vote bank of 2.5 crore, he urged the Government to ban inter-caste marriages.

Meanwhile, police arrested 19 Dravidar Viduthalai Iyakkam cadres who tried to disrupt the meeting. The outfit's Coimbatore secretary C Vijayan demanded that Kongu Vellala Gounder Peravai should be banned for fostering enmity between communities. The detained cadres were later released in the evening.



Cadre of Kongu Vellala Gounder Peravai taking a pledge against inter-caste marriage in Coimbatore here on Sunday | S Kamalakannan

The New Indian Express, October 15, 2012, P.6

Women, child trafficking in NE India

Pinky Baruah

Trafficking of women and children is becoming a very serious problem in India. The percentage of human trafficking is increasing in India since the last two decades. The concept of trafficking denotes a trade in something that should not be traded in. Trafficking is also defined as acts involving forced labour, forced marriages, and forced prostitution (United Nations 2000: 2). It is difficult to understand the routes of trafficking and sex work in northeast India particularly in Assam, factors of trafficking, networks of traffickers, middle men and the agent, exploitation of women (who got trafficked) and to understand the role of organization and various programmes that are associated with the eradication and to combat the cases of trafficking.

The most comprehensive definition of trafficking is the one adopted by UN Protocol to Prevent as follows (a) Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or of receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another persons, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other

forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs; (b) the consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation by means described in subsection such as force, coercion, abduction, fraud or abuse shall be irrelevant, (c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" (d) Child shall mean any person less than 18 years of age.

The definition of the Protocol on trafficking could not make out the difference between forced trafficking and female migration from one place to another and the protocol has not cited any welfare services to the trafficked victim or their family as well. As a result, the number of women migrated from one place to another place is equal to the number of women trafficked. Practically, this definition was not able to give a clear picture on trafficking. According to Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, any kind of women movement is considered or associated with trafficking and sexual exploitation. The convention treats the person and the family member as criminals. Thus women and the movement of women are viewed through the lens of criminality and stigma. On the

given definition of UN protocol on human trafficking, United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) mentioned three elements (a) The act: recruitment, transportation, transport and harbouring or receipt of persons (b) The Means: Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability (c) The purpose: which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery and the removal of organs. According to the UN Special Reporter's Report on Violence against Women in 2000; the UN has claimed that four million women are trafficked every year. Similarly, the US Central Intelligence Agency has estimated that nearly 40,000 to 50,000 women and children are trafficked annually to the US (Richard, 1999). Similarly, 1995 Human Rights Report on Trafficking Between Nepal and India states that "At least hundreds of thousands, and probably more than a million women and children are employed in Indian brothels" (Human Rights Watch, 1995).

The north-eastern region shares international borders with China, Bhutan, Bangla-

desh, Myanmar and Nepal. Due to poverty, unemployment, displacement and traditional economy, people of the border countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar move from one country to another and to India for better opportunity. In this way, the traffickers get the opportunity to target the girls of such vulnerable families or group. The traffickers profile is very interesting as they are not an unknown person to the victims, some traffickers are relatives, friends and neighbours of the victim. The traffickers exploit girls with fake promises of jobs and fake marriage and sell them off for domestic work or to brothels. Again, due to the uneven sex ratio in Haryana and Punjab, there is a huge demand for brides. Due to this, several girls are trafficked from the region and girls from various villages of Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam and West Bengal have been sold off by the parents. Due to economic deprivation, poverty and unemployment women migrate from Assam to various states. Especially, girls from the economically deprived section are being trafficked by some frauds for sex trade and sometimes even boys are trafficked for work as camel jockeys and for

organ trade business. In Assam, economically poorer districts like Dhubri, Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Kamrup and Barak Valley are the major places of trafficking.

Factors Leading to Trafficking: i) Supply Factors: poverty, child marriage, lack of employment, lure of job, natural calamities, fake marriage; ii) Demand Factors: migration, sex tourism, internet pornography; iii) perpetuating factors: geographical location of the state, lack of awareness about the issue and pre-occupation of the security forces with anti-militancy operations.

It is seen that the most common trafficking route or the destination is Siliguri, Delhi and Mumbai. Earlier it was Guwahati and Bongaigaon but now the traffickers take the girls directly to Siliguri, Delhi and Mumbai. The Indo-Bhutan border districts like Baska, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Mangaldai, Assam-Arunachal border districts (Sonitpur) and Barak valley districts are most prone for immoral trafficking. And from this area certain communities like Bodo, Nepali, Adivasi (tea tribes), Rabha and Rajbongshis are most vulnerable for trafficking. Particularly the target are the vulnerable families like those displaced by natural calamities like floods, families living in the remote villages or char areas and the families of tea garden. Due to decline in the sex

ratio' in states like Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, some percentage of Assamese girls are trafficked into forced marriages. And because of poverty some families sold off their daughter to the traffickers. Most of these girls forced into marriage are minors and are sexually abused by the person who trafficked them then sold off to others. Far away from home and family, communication problem as the lack of knowledge on local language makes the girls to depend upon the buyers or "husband". It is seen that lack of awareness among the people especially from the remote area about trafficking and migration. Fewer educational and economic opportunities for girls in the rural area than the men and attraction for big city, better living and better paying jobs are the causes of trafficking.

Some measures should be taken for prevention on trafficking like an initiative of including anti-trafficking activity should be taken in every level from Gaon Panchayat level, NGO's and the governmental organization and establishment of women cell in the colleges and police station. Local NGO's should arrange meetings on Gender sensitization and Program on women trafficking at tea gardens area, as these areas are targeted by the traffickers more. (The author is a Project Associate at NIRD, Guwahati)

The Assam Tribune, October 20, 2012, P.6

Drive to make sex workers independent

MAINSTREAM MOVE Participants trained to make jute bags, mats, pen stands and other household items; children get free education

Karn Pratap Singh

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NEW DELHI: In a bid to provide alternative livelihood options to sex workers of GB Road, the police have initiated a programme to train and engage the women in handicrafts and other small-scale businesses.

The drive under the Yuva scheme will help sex workers become self-defendant. Over two dozen sex workers have joined the drive, named Katkth, that started around a week back at Farash Khana area in Kamla Market.

The police, through this initiative, are also providing free education to the children of sex workers so that they don't get into illegal activities to earn their livelihood.

The objective of the pro-

gramme, a campaign started by Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar, is to bring under-privileged women and children to the mainstream," said Devesh Chandra Srivastava, additional CP (central).

Rashmi Sharma, assistant commissioner of police (probationer), who is primarily looking after such initiatives, said, "The number of sex workers participating in our campaign is

THE PROGRAMME KNOWN AS KATKTH, STARTED AROUND A WEEK BACK IN KAMLA MARKET. IT HAS ENROLLED OVER TWO DOZEN SEX WORKERS

increasing every day. So far, 25 sex workers and more than 20 children have joined the drive."

According to Sharma, the participants are being trained in making jute bags, mats, pen stands and other household items. Besides, they are also being given training in beauty treatment, boutique and cloth-designing and other job-oriented professional courses.

"Professional trainers will teach the women at centres run by Pahal Society, an NGO.

Sharma said that the minors are being educated by primary level teachers and volunteers who have willingly joined the campaign.

"Once the children are through with primary education, we will help them get admission in government schools," Sharma said.

Hindustan Times, October 21, 2012, P.5

Pension for widows, poor enhanced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday enhanced rates of pension for widows and persons with disabilities from ₹200 to ₹300 per month and revised eligibility criteria from 40 to 59 years to 40 to 79 years. This will benefit 76 lakh Below Poverty Line widows and 11 lakh BPL persons with severe or multiple disability.

This amount would be in addition to the contribution by the States. Further, 3.56 lakh BPL families will receive one time lump sum enhanced grant of ₹20,000 in the event of death of the primary breadwinner in the family. The net additional requirement for implementing this announcement is ₹1325.10 crore per annum.

The Cabinet also approved

the proposal to waive ₹2.10 crore loan plus the amount of interest thereon for the 370 Tsunami affected fishermen of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

It also decided to pay Productivity Linked Bonus equivalent to 78 days' wages for the financial year 2011-2012 for all eligible non-gazetted railway employees.

The financial implication of this decision is estimated to be ₹1021.56 crore while the wage calculation ceiling prescribed for payment is ₹3500 per month. About 12.37 lakh non-gazetted railway employees are likely to benefit from the decision.

This apart, the Cabinet approved a ₹4,000-crore proposal for a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy for the prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). It will be implemented in 60 priority districts for a period of five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17 by the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Social Justice & Empowerment, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Women & Child Development.

Focused interventions will be done in five States namely Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to control the disease.

The Cabinet also approved constitution of the 14th Finance Commission to suggest formula for sharing of tax proceeds between Centre and States. It will lay down principles governing the grants-in-aid to States and other local bodies for five-year period beginning April 1, 2015.

The Pioneer, October 19, 2012, P.5

4. Demography and Vital Statistics

4.1 Census Data (Evaluation Report/ Survey/ Other Monitoring Reports)

3mn GIRLS 'MISSING' IN INDIA'S POPULATION CHART

The study was conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)

New Delhi: In an alarming trend, the decline in girl child numbers in India has been sharper than the male child in 2001-11, leading to a skewed child sex ratio. While the decade saw an overall drop in share of children to total population, nearly three million girls, one million more than boys, are 'missing' in 2011 compared to 2001 and there are now 48 fewer girls per 1,000 boys than there were in 1981, according to a government study. "During 2001-2011, the share of children to total population has declined and the decline was sharper for female children than male children in the age group 0-6 years," said the study "Children in India 2012 - A Statistical Appraisal" conducted by the CSO. Female child population (0-6) was 78.83 mn in 2001, which declined to 75.84 mn in 2011.

CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN ON THE RISE

24% According to the report 'Children in India 2012 - A Statistical Appraisal', conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation, crime against children rose by an alarming 24 pc last year in the country

113 cases under prohibition of the Child Marriage Act-2006 were reported in the country in 2011, out of which the highest were in West Bengal (25) followed by Maharashtra (19), Andhra Pradesh (15), Gujarat (13) and Karnataka (12)

16.6% The highest number of crimes against children was reported from UP (16.6 pc) followed by MP (13.2 pc), Delhi (12.8 pc) and Maharashtra (10.2 pc)

47.6% UP and Delhi together accounted for 47.6 pc of kidnappings and abductions of children reported in the country last year. MP, UP and Maharashtra together accounted for 44.5 pc of child rape cases

27% Procurement of minor girls (862 cases) last year recorded an increase of 27 pc and foeticide reported an increase of 19 pc as compared to the previous year

10.5% Juvenile crimes increased by 10.5 pc to 25,125 in 2011 from 22,740 in previous year

43% Kidnapping and abduction cases increased by 43 pc in 2011, while rape cases where the victims were children rose by 30 pc in the same period



The New Indian Express, October 10, 2012, P.7

Feticide cases increased by 19% a yr

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Feticide cases increased by 19% over 2010 to 132 cases in 2011, most of which were registered from Madhya Pradesh, followed by Chhattisgarh and Punjab, says a ministerial report. The three states together reported 56% of the foeticide cases last year.

The report said, "The analysis of crime and children as presented here, puts forward a few upsetting revelations about the child victims as well as child offenders, which points out to the vulnerable conditions of children that need to be addressed urgently especially poverty."

India's chief statistician T C A Anant said in the report, "Even today, after six decades of independence, the condition of children remains a cause of concern in the country. As the statistics speaks out loudly, we have miles to go to ensure a bright future for the children in all spheres of their life."

According to the report, procurement of minor girls saw a 27% spike—862 cases in 2011 compared to 679 cases in 2010. West Bengal reported the highest chunk of these

cases (298)—a share of 34.6% followed by Bihar (183), Assam (142) and Andhra (106).

The average chargesheeting rate for all crimes against children was 82.5% in 2011, which was the same in 2010 as well.

The highest chargesheet rate was observed in cases under 'buying of girls for prostitution' (100%) followed by 'rape' (97.3%) in comparison to the prevailing national level chargesheeting rate of 78.8% for the IPC crimes. The lowest charge sheet rate was found in cases of foeticide.

The conviction rate at national level for the crimes committed against children stood at 34.6%. The conviction rate for 'infanticide (other than murder)' was highest at 46.9% followed by cases under 'murder' (45.5%).

When taking all the crimes against children into account, the crime rate (ratio

of number of crimes to population) saw a marginal increase from 2.3 in 2009 to 2.7 in 2011. Delhi, however, topped the crime rate (25.4) followed by Andaman and Nicobar Islands (20.3), Chandigarh (7) and Chhattisgarh (7), Madhya Pradesh (6) and Goa (5.1).

The 2012 data showed that juvenile IPC crimes in 2011 increased by 10.5% over 2010 as 22,740 IPC crimes by juveniles were registered during 2010 which increased to 25,125 cases in 2011. Out of the total 888 juvenile murder cases reported in the country in 2011, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh reported 16.3% and 12.6% cases.

The highest incidence of the juvenile rape cases was reported from Madhya Pradesh (23.6%) followed by UP (12.7%) and Maharashtra (10.9%). Among such disturbing trends, the report also had some good news. In 2011, buying of girls for prostitution showed a decline of 65%, and selling of girls for prostitution reported a decline of 13% compared to 2010. Cases of infanticide too showed a decline of 37 points during this period.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

RATE OF CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN

States	Cases	% contribution to nat'l total	Total cognizable crimes (ranking)
UP	5,500	16.6	15
MP	4,383	13.2	5
Delhi	4,250	12.8	1
Maharashtra	3,362	10.2	14
Bihar	2,233	6.7	21
AP	2,213	6.7	17
Chhattisgarh	1,782	5.4	4
Rajasthan	1,491	4.5	20
Kerala	1,452	4.4	9
West Bengal	1,450	4.4	23

Figures are of 2011

The Times of India, October 05, 2012, P.15

Startling statistics

A skewed sex-ratio and crimes against the girl child continue to haunt India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

Besides the skewed sex-ratio that the report indicates, another worrying trend is the rise in crime against children which has registered an increase by 24 per cent since last year. "Uttar Pradesh tops the charts for crimes against children, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. The states of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi together accounted for 47.6 per cent cases of kidnapping and abduction of children reported in the country. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra together accounted for 44.5 per cent of child rape cases reported in 2011," says the report.

Also a total of 132 cases of foeticide were reported in 2011 of which the highest number registered was from Madhya Pradesh, followed by Chhattisgarh and Punjab and these States together reported 56 per cent of the total foeticide registered in 2011 in the country. Maharashtra also accounted for 74 per cent of the total 27 cases of 'buying of girls' for prostitution and West Bengal has accounted for 77 per cent of the total 113 cases of 'selling of girls' for prostitution. The report registered an increase of 43 per cent in kidnapping and abduction cases in 2011 while rape cases, where the victims were children, rose by 30 per cent in the same period. "As many as 113 cases under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 were reported in the country in 2011, out of which the highest were in West Bengal (25), followed by Maharashtra (19), Andhra Pradesh (15), Gujarat (13) and Karnataka (12)," states the report. Indicating the trend in conviction rate at national level for crimes against children, the report claims that the figures stood at 34.6 per cent. It states that Maharashtra has registered the highest number of juveniles arrested followed by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. "Out of the total juveniles involved in various crimes, 18.1 per cent are illiterate and 37.8 per cent had education up to primary level. Eighty one per cent of these were children living with parents, whereas the share of homeless children involved in various crimes was found at 5.7 per cent and the remaining are children living with guardians."

The country's alarmingly skewed child sex-ratio continues its disturbing trend with a decline in birth of nearly three million girls as opposed to 2.06 million boys during 2001-11, according to the 'Children in India -2012: A statistical appraisal' report recently released by the Ministry of Statistic and Programme Implementation. As per the report, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh continue to indicate startlingly low child sex-ratio. "The share of children (0-6 years) in the total population has shown a decline of 2.8 points in 2011 compared to Census 2001 and the decline was sharper for female children than male children in the same age group," states the report. It adds that though child sex-ratio in rural India was higher than that of urban India, its decline in the 0-6 years' group during 2001-2011 in rural areas is more than three times as compared to the drop in urban India which is a matter of grave concern.

The Hindu, October 16, 2012, P.6

वर्ष 2007 में बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के मामले से संबंधित तालिका	स्थान	कुल मामले	कुल गिरफ्तार	सजा	प्रतिशत
भारत		5045	5756	1210	21.0
हरियाणा		122	148	42	28.3
पंजाब		135	127	24	18.8
हिमाचल		48	40	1	2.5
चंडीगढ़		8	11	6	54.5
दिल्ली		398	423	77	18.2

वर्ष 2008 में बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के मामले से संबंधित तालिका	स्थान	कुल मामले	कुल गिरफ्तार	सजा	प्रतिशत
भारत		5446	6363	1177	18.4
हरियाणा		70	110	30	27.2
पंजाब		106	130	39	30.0
हिमाचल		68	65	13	30.0
चंडीगढ़		10	12	5	41.6
दिल्ली		301	312	84	26.9

वर्ष 2009 में बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के मामले से संबंधित तालिका	स्थान	कुल मामले	कुल गिरफ्तार	सजा	प्रतिशत
भारत		5368	6308	1236	19.5
हरियाणा		116	115	57	49.5
पंजाब		210	259	56	21.6
हिमाचल		83	90	12	13.3
चंडीगढ़		21	20	7	35.0
दिल्ली		307	387	104	26.8

वर्ष 2010 में बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के मामले से संबंधित तालिका	स्थान	कुल मामले	कुल गिरफ्तार	सजा	प्रतिशत
भारत		5484	6398	1368	21.3
हरियाणा		107	121	27	22.3
पंजाब		144	184	59	32.0
हिमाचल		72	107	11	10.2
चंडीगढ़		16	27	8	29.6
दिल्ली		304	349	172	40.2

वर्ष 2011 में बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के मामले से संबंधित तालिका	स्थान	कुल मामले	कुल गिरफ्तार	सजा	प्रतिशत
भारत		7112	8499	1512	17.7
हरियाणा		66	73	28	38.35
पंजाब		166	172	52	30.2
हिमाचल		72	83	8	9.6
चंडीगढ़		15	17	8	47
दिल्ली		339	402	127	31.5

Dainik Tribune, Oct 05, 2012, P.14

Steep fall in child sex ratio: Study

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

In a startling revelation, a new government study claims nearly three million girls were "missing" in 2011, in contrast to two million "missing" boys in the same period.

The new study shows there are now 48 fewer girls per 1,000 boys than in 1981. In further evidence of the steep decline in girl child numbers, the study suggests in 2001-2011, the share of children to the total population has declined, and this is sharper for girls than boys in the 0-6 age group. "The decline in girl child numbers in India is sharper than male children in 2001-11, leading to a skewed child sex ratio," said the Central Statistical Organisation study "Children in India 2012: A Statistical Appraisal".

The study indicates the decade saw an overall drop in the share of children to the total population. Nearly three million girls, one million more than boys, are "missing" in 2011 compared to 2001, and there were now 48 fewer girls per 1,000 boys than in 1981. The population of girl child was 15.88 per cent of the total female population of 496.5 million in 2001, which declined to 12.9 per cent of total number of 586.47 million women in 2011. Similarly, the male children population has also declined from 85.01 million in 2001 to 82.95 per cent in 2011.

What is worrying is that while India's overall sex ratio is improving (up from 927 to 940 in 1991-2011), the child sex ratio fell (from 945 to 914 in the same period), the report said.

"Though the child sex ratio in rural India is 919 (17 points higher than urban India), the decline in child sex ratio in 2001-2011 in rural areas is three times more than in urban India. That is a matter of grave concern," the report adds.

Statistics on study of kids in India

- Share of children in overall population drops
- Population of girl child was 15.88% of the female population in 2001. It declined to 12.9% in 2011

Deccan Chronicle, October 10, 2012, P.1

Three million girl children 'missing' from India's population

press trust of india

NEW DELHI, 9 OCT: In an alarming trend, girl child numbers in India have shown a sharper decline than the number of male children in the decade beginning 2001, leading to a skewed child sex ratio.

Ahead of the International Day of the Girl Child on Thursday, the government today said that while the decade saw an overall drop in share of children to total population, nearly three million girls, one million more than boys, are "missing" in 2011 compared to 2001 and there are now 48 fewer girls per 1,000 boys than there were in 1981.

"During 2001-2011, the share of children to total population has declined and the decline was sharper for female children than male children in the age group 0-6 years," said *Children in India 2012-A Statistical Appraisal* the report of a study conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation.

"Though, the overall sex ratio of the country is showing a trend of improvement, the child sex ratio is showing a declining trend, which is a matter of concern," the study said.

According to the report, the female child population in the age group of 0-6 years was 78.83 million in 2001 which declined to

75.84 million in 2011.

The population of girl children was 15.88 per cent of the total female population of 496.5 million in 2001, which declined to 12.9 per cent of total number of 586.47 million women in 2011.

Similarly the male children population has also declined from 85.01 million in 2001 to 82.95 per cent in 2011. The percentage of male children population was 15.97 per cent of total male population in 2001 which declined to 13.3 per cent in 2011 (of a 623 million men population).

It says that this process has led to nearly 3 million girl children missing, compared to 2

million missing boy children in 2011, compared to 2001 and there are now 48 fewer girls per 1,000 boys than there were in 1981.

During the period, 1991-2011, the child sex ratio declined from 945 to 914, whereas the overall sex ratio showed an improvement from 927 to 940.

"Though the child sex ratio in rural India is 919, which is 17 points higher than that of urban India, the decline in Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years) during 2001-2011 in rural areas is more than three times as compared to the drop in urban India which is a matter of grave concern," it added.

Female child population (0-6 years) was 78.83 million in 2001, 75.84 million in 2011

The girl child population was 15.88 per cent of the total female population in 2001, which declined to 12.9 per cent in 2011

During the period 1991-2011, the child sex ratio declined from 945 to 914, whereas the overall sex ratio showed an improvement from 927 to 940



The Statesman, October 10, 2012, P.1

"India lags behind Bangladesh in improving Global Hunger Index despite economic growth"

International Food Policy Research Institute also bemoans lack of up-to-date information

Gargi Parsai

NEW DELHI: India has lagged in improving its Global Hunger Index (GHI) score despite strong economic growth, according to the 2012 Global Hunger Index report released for the seventh year by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe, and Concern Worldwide.

The 2012 index -- The Challenge of Hunger: Ensuring Sustainable Food Security under Land, Water, and Energy Stresses -- points out that Bangladesh, India and Timor-Leste have the highest prevalence of underweight children under five, more than 40 per cent in each of the three countries.

Yet, the report suggests that Bangladesh has overtaken India on a range of social indicators, including how fast

it has reduced child mortality.

In India, 43.5 per cent of children under five are underweight, which accounts for almost two-thirds of the country's alarmingly high GHI score. From 2005-2010, India ranked second to last on child underweight -- below Ethiopia, Niger, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Bemoaning the absence of up-to-date information, the report says that though India has worked to improve food security and nutrition in recent years through government's nutrition-relevant social programmes, the effectiveness remains uncertain for lack of updated data.

On the other hand, China has lowered its levels of hunger and under-nutrition through a strong commitment to poverty reduction, social security networks, nu-

trition and health interventions, and improved access to safe water, sanitation, and education.

The report, released worldwide on Thursday, says that South Asia has the highest regional 2012 GHI score -- 22.5 -- thus the highest hunger levels of the regions covered in the Index. Yet compared with the region's 1990 GHI score, its 2012 GHI score is 26 per cent lower, indicating improvement in the region's hunger situation.

It finds hunger inextricably linked to growing pressure on land, water and energy resources. "Growing scarcity and degradation of farmland, rapidly rising incomes and changing consumption patterns, have contributed to a growing number of international land investments, or land deals. Many of these deals have tar-

geted Sub-Saharan Africa, where land rent is lower, regulatory systems weaker, and levels of hunger higher," it says.

"Large-scale foreign investments in land should be closely monitored. Local organisations are needed to secure transparency and the participation of smallholder farmers whose livelihoods are impacted by land deals," said Welthungerhilfe President Bärbel Dieckmann.

Water scarcity is exacerbated by climate change, especially in the severely water-stressed areas of the world, which are home to more than 2 billion people. Floods, drought, and environmental degradation threaten the farm sector in parts of the world.

Rising global energy prices are a serious threat to food security, as also increasing

demand for agricultural land and water for irrigation which, in turn, push up food prices.

Higher energy prices is observed to increase agricultural input costs including cost of fertiliser and groundwater pumping and machinery, putting further pressure on prices, it adds.

The report suggests long-term availability of natural resources as crucial for food security and human well-being.

"If local, national and international natural resource policies focus on sustainable, long-term gains, if policies are coordinated and tradeoffs among land, water and energy policies minimised, we can strengthen the global food system while preventing resource depletion," points Claudia Ringler, IFPRI Deputy Division Director.

The Hindu, October 12, 2012, P.12

India lags behind Pak, China in reducing hunger: Report

Abhijit Patnaik
abhijit.patnaik@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: In another sign of the growing disconnect between economic growth and the upliftment of millions of citizens, a new report states that India ranks 65th out of 79 countries on a global hunger index.

The country lags behind neighbouring Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka in reducing hunger level. The results are particularly stark when one compares the growth of per capita income in the country with hunger levels.

India's per capita income doubled between 1995 and 2010, according to the World Bank. However, its score on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) worsened between 1996 and 2001.

Minor improvements in the past decade have brought the 2012 score around the 1996 level.

The report, titled 'Global Hunger Index 2012', released by three organisations, the International Food Policy Research Institute, Welt Hunger Hilfe and Concern Worldwide, states 'India has lagged behind in improving its GHI score despite economic growth'.

The index that reflects the multidimensional nature of hunger, accounts for child mor-

NOT A PROBLEM OF RESOURCES
2012-13 expenditure on nutrition-related schemes is immense...

Mid day meal ₹11,937 cr
ICDS* ₹15,850 cr
Food subsidy** ₹60,573 cr
Health ₹34,488 cr
MGNREGA ₹33,000 cr

Yet health indicators remain poor

43.5% of children under five are underweight (2005-06)

36% of Indian women of childbearing age were underweight, according to surveys during 2000-06

* India has lagged behind in improving its Global Hunger Index score despite economic growth. HT FILE

**Integrated Child Development Scheme; **FY 2011-12; Source: GHI 2012, Accountability Initiative

talty, the proportion of undernourished people in the population and the percentage of children under the age of five who are underweight.

The news comes despite successive governments having launched various nutrition

schemes. But poor design, low coverage, and insufficient monitoring have turned them into multi-billion dollar leaky cauldrons. Among the regions, South Asia has the worst GHI—worse than Sub-Saharan Africa. In Asia, Bangladesh ranks below India.

Hindustan Times, October 12, 2012, P.10

'India's score alarming on hunger map'

POOR RANKING

Country	GHI score		
	1990	2001	2012
India	30.3	24.2	22.9
China	11.8	6.6	5.2
B'desh	37.9	27.8	23.3
Rwanda	28.2	25.6	19.7

Gross Hunger Index - India and the rest of the developing world

and nutrition experts have been saying for the last few years: India's poor monitoring of malnutrition is seriously hampering efforts to understand and tackle the problem. India has not published national data on nutrition since the last National Family Health Survey which came out in 2005-3, while no new data is available for another two years.

"Nonetheless, even bearing in mind that possible recent advances in the fight against child undernutrition are not yet visible in the latest GHI, India's track record is disappointing... [G]iven India's per capita income, it has higher GHI scores than would be expected. Between 1990 and 1996, India's... GHI score was falling commensurate with economic growth. After 1996, however, the disparity between economic development and progress in the fight against hunger widened, and India moved further away from the predicted line," the report says.

"This stagnation in GHI scores occurred during a period when India's gross national income per capita almost doubled," the authors observe.

New Delhi: India ranks 65th out of 79 countries on the Global Hunger Index, a new report by the International Food Policy Research Institute, Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide has said. The report has sharply criticized India for not moving fast enough to reduce malnourishment, and has said that its nutritional indicators are far worse than its economic indicators merit.

India's ranking has not changed since 2011, when it was 67th of 81 countries.

The GHI is composed using three equally weighted indices: the proportion of people undernourished, child mortality, and the proportion of underweight children. India's GHI score of 22.9 (where anything over 10 is "very serious") is back to its 1996 levels. Of the three components of the index, India performs the worst on children underweight: it is second to last of 129 countries on the proportion of its children who are underweight—43.5%. Only Timor-Leste is in worse shape. The authors of the report point out what health

The Times of India, Oct 12, 2012, P.10

Marriage, not education, is girls' priority: Study

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU, OCT. 3

Though the government has come up with several policies to eliminate gender disparity and making education universal and compulsory for all, yet the ground reality still remains different.

A study conducted by Child Rights and You (CRY, an NGO which works with about 200 partners across India) in Bengaluru-based urban slum at Madiwala during August-September 2012 has revealed that marriage is still high on priority than education for the girl child. Among the sam-

ple population of 100 people taken up for the study, 67% of the respondents reported that girls should get married earlier than boys.

The more surprising figure that came out during the survey was that about 80% of the respondents were not even aware that several education schemes are exclusively available for girls in the State. "We have been working for the rights and education of children, especially the underprivileged children for the past several years and we have seen that for a large number of girls in India, quality education has

remained an elusive dream. More so people in the urban slums are not even aware of that free and compulsory education in the primary and upper primary level exists," said Regina Thomas, director, south, CRY. In addition to this, the study also revealed that the number of school dropouts were more among girls. More than half of the respondents, above 54% of them said that more girls were out of school than boys in their locality. Meanwhile, 40% of the respondents accepted that schoolgoing girls were getting married in their locality.

The Asian Age, October 04, 2012, P.5

भारत में बाल विवाह में गिरावट: संयुक्त राष्ट्र

संयुक्त राष्ट्र, 12 अक्टूबर (भाषा)। संयुक्त राष्ट्र से जुड़े एक संगठन ने कहा है कि भारत में किशोरियों के बीच बाल विवाह की दर घटी है लेकिन इस मोर्चे पर इतनी प्रगति नहीं हुई है कि उन्हें शिक्षा और आत्मनिर्भर के अधिकारों की गारंटी मिले। संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने बाल विवाह समाप्त करने के आह्वान के साथ फल पहला 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस' मनाया और इस बात पर बल दिया कि शिक्षा ही लड़कियों को कुप्रथाओं से बचाने की सबसे अच्छी रणनीतियों में एक है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष (यूएनएफपीए) ने घोषणा की है कि वह उच्च बाल विवाह दर वाले 12 देशों में हाशिए पर रहने वाली किशोरियों तक पहुंचने के लिए अगले पांच साल में दो करोड़ डालर अतिरिक्त धनराशि खर्च करेगा। जिन देशों पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा उनमें ग्वाटेमाला, भारत, नाइजर और जम्विया शामिल हैं।

"बहुत कम उम्र में शादी (बाल विवाह की समाप्ति) विषय पर गुरुवार को जारी यूएनएफपीए की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 2000-2011 के दौरान भारत में 20 और 24 साल के बीच की 47 फीसद महिलाएं 18 साल की उम्र में ब्याही गईं या युगल के रूप में रहने लगीं। इन 47 फीसद महिलाओं में 56 फीसदी महिलाएं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहती हैं जबकि करीब करीब 30 फीसद औरतें शहरी परिवारों की हिस्सा हैं। करीब 76 फीसद बालिकाओं को शिक्षा मयस्सर नहीं है। करीब 75 फीसद किशोरियां निर्धनतम परिवारों से आती हैं जबकि 16 फीसद किशोरियां धनी परिवारों से संबद्ध हैं।

भारत में लगातार तीन बार करार गए पारिवारिक सर्वेक्षण के मुताबिक 15 साल तक लड़कियों के बीच बाल विवाह दर में गिरावट 18 साल से कम उम्र की लड़कियों की विवाह दर में कमी से दुगुनी है। जहां पंद्रह साल तक लड़कियों में विवाह दर में गिरावट 30 फीसद है वहीं 18 साल तक लड़कियों की विवाह दर में 13 फीसद कमी आई है। रिपोर्ट कहती है, 'यद्यपि इसे प्रगति के संकेत के रूप में लिया जा सकता है लेकिन यह अब भी बच्चों को शिक्षा, यौन व प्रजनन, स्वास्थ्य व आत्म-निर्णय के लिहाज से पूर्ण अधिकारों की गारंटी देने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।'

Jansatta, October 13, 2012, P.2

STOP ABUSE OF OUR CHILDREN

A DECADE OF DECADENCE

2011 figures show that crimes against children have risen from 2000

63 Infanticides

compared to 104 recorded in 2000. While infanticide has dropped, foeticide has seen an almost congruous rise

132 Foeticides

It has risen from 91 in 2000, around a 45% increase. This shows, perhaps, an increase in selective abortions

15,284

Kidnappings and abductions

This category has seen a shocking increase of over 50%. In comparison, the number of recorded cases in 2000 were 10,066

7112

Rapes

The number has more than doubled from 3132 in 2000

61 Abetments to suicide

Recorded cases stood at a low figure of 18 in 2000. It has since gone up by more than three times

1451 Murders

This has risen from 1175 in 2001. Total crimes against children in 2011 were 33,098. The figure for 2000 cannot be compared as the NCRB's method of computation changed in that year.

80 Importation of girls

The number of recorded cases have seen a marginal increase, but an increase nonetheless, from 64 in 2000

SOURCE: NCRB

FIGURES FOR CHILD LABOUR ARE ASTONISHINGLY HIGH



14% of children in India between the ages of 5 and 14 are engaged in child labour



80% of child labourers reside in rural India, where they are forced to work in agricultural activities such as fanning, livestock rearing, forestry and fisheries.

SOURCE: UNICEF, INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

Manjula Narayan

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Apart from numerous notices about missing children and the spectacle of kids in gruesome identification-of-body announcements, a casual perusal of newspapers on any given morning throws up at least one case of extreme cruelty against a child.

Take the case of minors raped at a juvenile home in Allahabad in April — an incident uncovered when a recently-adopted six-year-old told her parents about the goings-on; or the three-month-old girl in Bengaluru whose father burnt and bit her, and inflicted so much damage she succumbed to a brain haemorrhage. There was the child crushed between the folding train berth on the Panchvally Express between Indore and Chindwara; the couple who abandoned their newborn baby girl at a Jodhpur hospital; and the horrifying case of Baby Falak that blew the lid off the flesh trade in girls as young as 13.

Add to this anecdotal evidence of the physical abuse of school children; of well-to-do families employing children to look after their infants, and about problems faced by working children. Just last month, a child working at a dhabba in Delhi was hurled by a drunk into a vat of boiling milk for not serving him.

“While there are fewer child marriages now, crimes against children are rising especially in urban areas,” says Rakesh Senger, secretary, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, who says there is a gap between awareness and implementation of laws. “There is no awareness at the grassroots about child or domestic labour as there is, for example, about Pulse Polio schemes,” he says.

Indeed, a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study done by CRY (Child Rights and You) inferred that few knew that the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986, insists children cannot work for more than three hours at a stretch with breaks that last at least an hour. One of every two respondents was also ignorant about the Right To Education Act 2009. No wonder then that an SRI-IMRB survey done in 2009 found that around 81.5 lakh children in India were out of school.

A global survey released this July that shows India has fallen on the Child Development Index confirms the suspi-

cion that it is now one of the world's worst places to be a child. Of the BRICS nations, India is ranked lowest with China at the top. China is investing much more in its children. Just 5% of China's children are underweight compared to 40% of Indian children. While India's under-five mortality rate is more than 60 out of 1,000, China's is 20. India fares poorly on child

health, education and nutrition too and is ranked at a dismal 112 on a list of 141 countries — it stood at 100 in 1995. If this wasn't bad enough, figures from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show extreme violence against children has increased: while 1175 children were murdered in 2001, the figure rose to 1451 in 2011. The total number of crimes against kids stands at 33,098.

“We lack a protective environment for children,” says Soha Moitra, Regional Director, North, CRY, who points out that special juvenile police units and the few existing juvenile justice boards don't function properly. There are multiple ministries including the Health ministry and the Women and Child ministry looking at child development and since each works in isolation, government funds are not optimally channelled. Moitra believes NGOs cannot effectively map abuse or arrive at the exact number of missing children as different sources provide different information.

Senger reveals that there is no data for habitual offenders against children. “We need a centralised data bank to apprehend them and reduce crime,” he says. Perhaps the systematic gathering of facts and setting up a national database of crimes against children would be the first step towards making India a safer place. Clearly, though, it will be a while before the benefits reach those who need it most — the nation's abused children

3 children go missing daily

chandan prakash singh

NEW DELHI, 3 OCT: Three children go missing in the Capital everyday, according to the latest updated data with Delhi Police. The total number of such missing children has seen an alarming almost four-fold rise in a comparative study of the last six years.

Altogether 1010 cases of missing children have been registered in police stations of the Capital's 11 police districts till 24 September this year. More than 4478 families have missing children.

In 2009, the Delhi High Court had slammed Delhi Police for its failure to track the missing children in Delhi. In response to a PIL, the High Court in March 2011 had advised Delhi Police to establish a 'task force' to look into the matter. However, the fact is nobody knows where these children go. A senior police officer told The Statesman that they may be trafficked to South India for engaging them in begging, labour and some times in the flesh trade too. According to data provided by zip-net.in, an official website of Delhi Police, the maximum rise in such cases was registered with East district. Altogether 117 cases have been registered so far this year in comparison to last year's 43 cases marking a 172 per cent increase. The least rise in such cases was registered with New Delhi district. Nineteen cases have been registered this year, just one above last year's 18, marking a 5.55 per cent increase. Missing children cases have decreased in north-east district as only 87 cases have been registered this year, compared to last year's 125 cases.


District wise data of missing children compared with last year.

	2012	2011
Central	49	21
Eas	117	43
Railways	14	13
North	30	26
New Delhi	19	18
North-East	87	125
Outer	167	92
North-West	105	80
South	77	41
South-East	147	104
South-West	92	51
West	106	82
Total	1010	967

Annual Data

2006	303
2007	330
2008	473
2009	535
2010	860

Total cases from 2006 till 24 September 2012 are 4,478



The Statesman, October 04, 2012, P.3

19 KIDS RAPED IN INDIA DAILY, CASES RISING

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NEW DELHI: More than 19 cases of child rape are reported in India every day. Worse still, figures made available by the National Crime Records Bureau show that the number of such cases registered with the police has been rising for the last five years, barring a slight dip in 2009.

In 2011, 7,112 such cases were lodged, up from 5,045 in 2007 — a jump of over 40% in five years. The number of people convicted for such crimes has also risen, except for a dip in 2008.

In the last five years, the maximum cases were reported from Madhya Pradesh (5,450), followed by Maharashtra (3,382) and Uttar Pradesh (3,535).

Delhi registered 1,649 cases — a worryingly high number considering the area and population size.

On the other hand, the eight northeastern states registered a constant decline, except in 2010.

Hindustan Times, Oct 01, 2012, P.1

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 11 अक्टूबर को मनाया पहला अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस

भारत में बाल विवाह उन्मूलन की गति धीमी : यूएन

संयुक्त राष्ट्र, प्रेड: बालविवाह रोकने के लिए प्रेडह साल की उम्र में लड़कियों का विवाह करने को लेकर भारत में जारी बहस के बीच संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने कहा है कि अपने देश में बाल विवाह उन्मूलन को रफ्तार धीमी है। हालांकि, प्रेडह साल के आंकड़ों पर नजर डाली जाए तो इसमें काफी कमी आई है। भारत के साथ बांग्लादेश और सोमालिया में बाल विवाह पर कारगर रोक लगाने का आह्वान करते हुए संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने गुरुवार को पहला अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस मनाया।

आंकड़ों का इस्तेमाल करते हुए संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने कहा है कि 1992-93 में भारत में जहां 18 साल से पहले 54 फीसद लड़कियों की शादी हो जाती थी, वहीं अब यह 2007-08 में पटककर 43 फीसद रह गया है। इसके बावजूद बाल विवाह पर रोक की गति सुस्त है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बाल विवाह को कुप्रथा पर रोक लगाने का संकल्प लेते हुए बच्चों के लिए काम करने वाली संयुक्त राष्ट्र की संस्था यूनीसेफ ने कहा है कि हम अपने सहयोगी देशों के साथ मिलकर यह दिखाना चाहते हैं कि इस दिशा में हमने कितनी प्रगति की है और हमारे सामने क्या चुनौतियां हैं। बाल विवाह मानव अधिकारों का उल्लंघन है। यह बच्चों के जीवन के हर पहलू को प्रभावित करता है। साथ ही उनकी प्रगति को रोकता है। यूनीसेफ की एक अधिकारी अंजु मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस हमें यह याद दिलाएगा कि लड़कियों को आर्थिक विकास के केंद्र में रखने का समय आ गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि 2011 तक 34 देश बाल विवाह को रोकने की दिशा में उदार जा रहे कदमों की जानकारी दे चुके हैं। इनमें सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक बदलाव के साथ ही विधिक सुधार भी शामिल हैं।

वॉशिंगटन, प्रेड: यूरोप को अपनी प्रति व्यक्ति आमदनी को दोगुना करने में दो दशकों का समय लगा। वहीं काम अमेरिका 50 साल में कर पाया, जबकि भारत और चीन ने यह लक्ष्य 16 और 12 साल में हासिल कर लिया। खास बात यह है कि इन दोनों देशों की आबादी एक अरब से ज्यादा है, जबकि यूरोप और अमेरिका की जनसंख्या अपेक्षाकृत बहुत कम है। अमेरिका के वाणिज्य उपमंत्रि नाइकल केमरोन ने कहा कि ब्रिटेन ने हुई औद्योगिक क्रांति ने लोगों की आय में तेजी से इजाजत किया, लेकिन भारत और चीन ने आमदनी को दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य दस गुना तेजी से हासिल किया। अमेरिकी नेशनल स्टैंडर्ड्स इंस्टीट्यूट में एक कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए केमरोन ने कहा कि 17वीं सदी के मध्य में शुरू हुई औद्योगिक क्रांति ने तेजी पकड़ने में दो सदी का समय लिया। इस वजह से ब्रिटेन की प्रति व्यक्ति आय को दोगुना होने में 150 साल का समय लगा। ब्रिटेन और अमेरिका ने एक करोड़ की आबादी के साथ औद्योगिक विकास की शुरुआत की लेकिन चीन और भारत ने लगभग एक अरब की आबादी के साथ तेज विकास की यह में कदम बढ़ाए। इस लिहाज से देखा जाए तो यूरोप-अमेरिका की तुलना में भारत और चीन में प्रति व्यक्ति आय में वरस गुना तेजी से वृद्धि हुई। मैक्सिमी प्लोवेल इंस्टीट्यूट की एक रिपोर्ट के हवाले से केमरोन ने कहा कि 2025 तक दुनिया में उपभोक्ताओं की संख्या बार अरब के पर खली जाएगी। इनमें से ज्यादातर अमेरिका और विकसित देशों से बाहर के होंगे।

Dainik Jagran, October 12, 2012, P.7

Study reveals discrimination in Karnataka schools

Mohit M. Rao

MANGALORE: In what reveals the persistence of caste-based segregation of children in primary schools in rural Karnataka, around 13.7 per cent of Dalit children surveyed in the State have claimed that their teacher had asked them to sit separately from 'higher caste' children in the classroom, says a study released by the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Mangalore University.

Released on October 18 here, 'Discrimination and social exclusion: A study on the development experience of Dalits in Karnataka' was spread over ten taluks in Belgaum, Gulbarga, Chitradurga, Mysore and Kolar – chosen for their socio-cultural diversity and their considerable Scheduled Caste population.

Over ten months ending in July 2011, the study enumerated the harassment and dis-

crimination faced by 2,425 Dalit families or 12,677 people in 50 villages, of which 825 families have children going to primary school.

Interviews with members of Dalit households threw up the same disconcerting facts in all districts, and the study concluded that the "practice of untouchability by teachers" was responsible for the segregation.

Discrimination is also seen during midday meals, with around 114 families admitting that their children have had to sit separately during lunch and were served in a separate

set of plates.

Researchers have observed that school authorities disallow Dalit children from serving food or entering the kitchen.

Shockingly, while 72.8 per cent of the parents interviewed said their children have never been appointed class monitors, nearly 33 per cent of the parents said their children have been given the task of cleaning classrooms on a "frequent" basis and "during school functions and festivals".

Though the survey reports a lesser degree of discrimina-

tion among the students themselves, it notes that just 31.4 per cent of Dalit children had been extended invitations to their 'upper caste' friends' houses.

"When the Dalit children go to these houses, only some have said they have been allowed into the house. Even if they enter, they are only allowed up to the passage of the house," states the study.

Higher education

Illiteracy remains a problem for the Scheduled Castes in the visited villages.

At 45 per cent, illiteracy is higher than the national average.

Even among the Dalit literates, the "access to professional and higher education is very low": of those who can "read and write", only 12.6 per cent had completed pre-university level courses; less than 1.2 per cent had gone on to complete diplomas and industrial training courses.

'Wrong values being taught'

Staff Correspondent

MANGALORE: Bislaiah, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences,

Bangalore, says that though being class monitors may seem like a small thing, the survey does point out the values being taught to children.

The Hindu, October 22, 2012, P.5

दिल्ली स्थित इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इकोनॉमिक ग्रोथ के अध्ययनकर्ताओं ने यूपी के 43 गांवों में किया सर्वे

सेकेंडरी में महंगी पढ़ाई की मार प्राइमरी के छात्रों पर

नई दिल्ली | हरिकृष्ण शर्मा

सरकार भले ही सभी बच्चों को प्राथमिक शिक्षा मुहैया कराने का दावा करे, लेकिन जब तक सेकेंडरी स्कूलों तक सबकी पहुंच नहीं होगी, तब तक शायद ही यह लक्ष्य हासिल हो पाए। एक ताजा अध्ययन के मुताबिक, सेकेंडरी की महंगी पढ़ाई के चलते अभिभावक बच्चों को प्राइमरी स्कूल भी नहीं भेजते।

दिल्ली स्थित इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इकोनॉमिक ग्रोथ (आईजीजी) के दो अध्ययनकर्ताओं ने उत्तर प्रदेश के 43 गांवों में सर्वे किया है। इसके मुताबिक, अगर प्राथमिक शिक्षा के बाद की पढ़ाई अधिक महंगी होती है तो अभिभावक बच्चों को प्राथमिक

कहां कितने बच्चे पूरी नहीं कर पाते पांचवीं तक पढ़ाई

राज्य	ड्रॉप आउट (प्रतिशत में)
बिहार	42.45
उत्तर प्रदेश	42.06
उत्तराखंड	32.62
झारखंड	27.05
दिल्ली	13.30



ताजा अध्ययन

- सेकेंडरी की महंगी पढ़ाई के चलते अभिभावक बच्चों को प्राइमरी स्कूल भी नहीं भेजते
- घर से सेकेंडरी स्कूली की दूरी पर निर्भर करती है छात्रों की संख्या व स्कूल में हाजिरी

स्कूल में भेजने से परहेज करते हैं। अध्ययन के नतीजे इसलिए भी अहम हैं, क्योंकि देशभर में करीब 28.86 फीसदी बच्चे पांचवीं की पढ़ाई पूरी करने से पहले ही स्कूल छोड़ देते हैं।

कई राज्यों में तो यह प्रतिशत और भी ज्यादा है। खासकर लड़कों की अपेक्षा लड़कियों के स्कूल छोड़ने की दर ज्यादा है। आईजीजी के अध्ययनकर्ता अभिरूप मुखोपाध्याय और मोहम

साहू के मुताबिक प्राथमिक स्कूल में छात्रों की संख्या और उनकी उपस्थिति काफ़ी हद तक घर से माध्यमिक स्कूल की दूरी पर भी निर्भर करती है। जैसे-जैसे स्कूल की दूरी बढ़ती जाती है,

प्राथमिक स्कूल में छात्रों की संख्या घटती जाती है। शोधकर्ताओं का कहना है कि अगर माध्यमिक शिक्षा तक पहुंच बेहतर हो तो प्राथमिक स्कूलों में 6 से 10 वर्ष के छात्रों का नामांकन बढ़ जाता है। माध्यमिक स्कूल घर से एक किलोमीटर से कम दूरी पर हो तो प्राथमिक स्कूल में छात्रों की संख्या 6.5% बढ़ जाती है। लेकिन माध्यमिक स्कूल पांच किलोमीटर से अधिक दूर होने पर प्राथमिक स्कूल में दाखिला लेने वाले छात्रों की संख्या में 2.5% कमी आ जाती है। दरअसल, बहुत से परिवार प्राइमरी स्कूल में बच्चों को भेजने से पहले इस बात पर भी गौर करते हैं कि माध्यमिक स्तर पर उनकी पढ़ाई जारी रखने की संभावना कितनी है।

Hindustan, October 08, 2012, P.14

'Girls keen on rejoining schools'

Plan India study reveals alarming dropout rates

NEW DELHI: Nearly 52 per cent girls who drop out of school before completing their senior secondary education wish to go back to school, according to an ongoing study by child rights group Plan India.

Some key findings of the study 'Because I am a Girl' were released on Tuesday ahead of the International Day for Girl Child. The report has a sample size of 2,700 adolescents across UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. "The literacy rate or education level of mothers is a strong determining factor in girls continuing their education. We found that 80 per cent mothers are illiterate, which prevents girls from going back to school," said Plan India member Meena Narula.

Poor financial condition and underage marriage are other factors for high dropout rates among girls. Only 35 per cent girls who dropped out in UP schools said they can take their own decisions.

Child abuse

Most of the school children in the three states have experienced beatings, corporal punishment, teasing and harassment. Less than one-third of boys

and girls reported cases of violence and abuse and a lesser percentage of dropout girls reported such issues.

"We started this campaign five years ago. This year's theme is 'life skills and education' as discrimination against girls is prominent in society. A girl in India faces barriers at every stage of her life," said Plan India executive director Bhagyashri Dengle.

To mark the International Day for Girl Child, Plan India and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will illuminate Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb and Purana Quila and Charminar in Hyderabad with pink lights.

"The ASI's permission to illuminate monuments is not restricted to this occasion. We seek to collaborate with the NGO to celebrate other events as well," said D N Dimri, ASI Delhi circle superintending archaeologist. "There is a huge evidence of importance and respect given to women in early history. Discrimination started in the medieval period, which continues till date," said Dimri. Actor Anil Kapoor, patron of the project, said ASI's support will help spread awareness about promoting girls.

DH News Service

Report pinpoints roadblocks in girls' education

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Family's economic condition, their willingness to allow the girl child to continue studying and the literacy status of the mother were found to be among the key determinants among educationally backward families in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand that prevented girls from getting secondary education.

According to a study report "The state of the girl child in India-2012" released here on Tuesday by non-government organisation Plan India that looked at the educationally deprived communities, "poor infrastructure facilities (inadequate space within class rooms, non-availability of drinking water and proper sanitation), remoteness (long distance between home and the secondary schools and safety) and socio-cultural reasons were found to be the main reasons why girls dropped out of schools".

Plan India (Governing Board) chairperson Govind Nihalani said: "Because I am a Girl' is Plan's global campaign designed to fight gender inequality, promote girl's rights and lift millions of girls out of poverty providing them an opportunity to reach their full potential. 'Because I am a Girl' initiative is designed mainly to empower the girl child and help them

realise their potential and skills."

The study report found that among the girls who were interviewed "forty-three per cent were married before 18 years of age, 50 per cent were underweight, 56 per cent anaemic, 33 per cent undernourished and only 30 per cent of poor women could afford hospital delivery, 57 per cent girls dropped out before completing Class X."

Plan India executive director Bhagyashri Dengle said: "Education is a life-long investment to develop human capital. Basic education is essential for achieving the goals of poverty eradication, reduction of child mortality, gender equality, sustainable development and reduction of child mortality. We hope that the new findings and recommendations of the report will contribute to programme and policy influence."

Also present at the release was actor and goodwill ambassador of Plan India, Anil Kapoor: "The cause of the girl child remains closest to my heart as I am a father of two daughters and I am sure that a unique initiative such as this will generate a lot of mass interest and help bring us a step closer to working together to safeguard all the daughters of our country. As responsible citizen it is important that each one of us get involved," he said.

Deccan Herald, Oct 10, 2012, P.9

The Hindu, Oct 11, 2012, P.9

At least 29 per cent in Delhi do not know about RTE Act: Survey

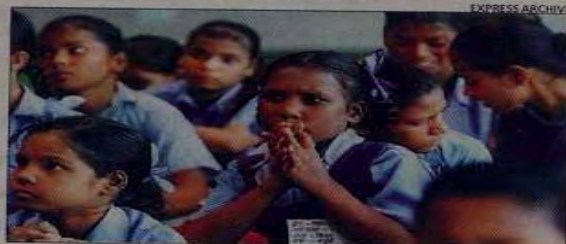
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

A STUDY on the status of the education of the girl child has revealed that 29 per cent of the respondents in the city are unaware about the Right to Education Act, which states that education is a basic right of every child in the country.

The study was undertaken Child Rights and You (CRY) to analyse the various policies formulated for the girl child and its impact across the country.

The survey, titled "Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey" was conducted by CRY volunteers in slums/resettlement colonies in the five cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore to study the prevalence of barriers to education of the girl child among the lower income groups.

Approximately 480 households were covered by the survey. In Delhi,



The CRY survey was aimed at studying the prevalence of barriers to education of girl child in five cities

more than half the respondents lacked awareness about schemes for girl children. "About 29 per cent respondents said they knew children in their locality who were out of school. About 30 per cent respondents said they knew that girl children were out of school in their locality."

"The report on education of the girl child clearly brings out an urgent need to address the issue at all levels. While

we have made rapid strides over the last two decades in universalising primary education, there are still significant gaps, especially at the level of secondary education," Yogita Verma, Director Volunteer Action, CRY, said.

She said the findings of the survey reinforce the fact that attitude of people toward the education of girl child was one of the major barriers. "The survey makes it clear that there is a need for large-scale atti-

tude change," Verma said.

One of the more startling findings of the survey was that 37.4 per cent respondents said if an individual was grown up enough to work and earn his/her livelihood, then the individual should not be considered a child.

The survey quotes many reasons for this attitude, mainly, parental attitude toward education and concerns regarding the security of a girl on her way to school. Infrastructure issues such as toilets in schools were also cited by many respondents.

The survey finds that 33 per cent of the respondents agreed that a girl child is abused in school and almost 48 per cent noted that girls were abused "while on their way to school".

Officials of CRY said the key findings of the survey will be shared with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Delhi government seeking action for a positive change.

The Indian Express, October 04, 2012, P.2



Poverty, not lack of education, turning kids to crime: Study

Chetan Chauhan
chetan@hindustanimes.com

NEW DELHI: A government study, released on Tuesday, has indicated that the biggest factor driving children to crime was poverty.

The study — titled *Children in India-2012* — stated that around 57% of the 33,887 children involved in crime last year belonged to families with an annual income lower than ₹25,000. "There is a class bias in registration of cases against children," said Raj Mangal Prasad of NGO Pratidhi. "Many offences by middle-class and upper middle-class children go unreported."

The data, released by the min-

AROUND 57% OF THE 33,887 KIDS INVOLVED IN CRIME LAST YEAR WERE FROM FAMILIES WITH ANNUAL INCOME LOWER THAN ₹25,000

istry of statistics and programme implementation, shows that a majority of the children had committed the crime for money. They were involved in 5,320 cases of theft and 2,609 cases of burglary in 2011 — over double the number from last decade.

Prasad said that in most cases, the children were induced to commit the crime by adults

because they were less likely to be suspected. A Delhi Police officer said many auto-theft gangs in the capital recruit children.

Lack of education, however, could not be cited as one of the reasons for the increase because around 31% of the juvenile offenders were found to be students in primary or higher secondary-level schools. "Illiterate children accounted for only 11% of the number," the report said.

A 2008 study by the Childline Foundation of India had stated that children from poor families are at a higher risk of getting sucked into crime, primarily due to lack of education and adverse socio-adverse conditions.

Lost childhood

The alarmingly high prevalence of child marriages in India became known globally when International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated for the first time on October 11. According to UNICEF, girl child marriages in India stood at 43 per cent in 2007-2008; it was 54 per cent in 1992-1993. A recent report of the United National Population Fund (UNPFA) also underlines the magnitude of the problem. Forty-seven per cent of women between the ages 20 to 24 were married before they turned 18 during the period 2000-2011, it stated. In 2006 alone, 11 States had 40 to 61 per cent of women in the 20-24 age group who were married by age 18. No wonder that India accounts for over 40 per cent of the world's child marriages. Three consecutive household surveys (1992-1993, 1999 and 2005-2006) show the rate of child marriage among girls below 15 years had fallen from 26 per cent in 1992-1993 to 18 per cent in 2005-2006, an overall drop of 30 per cent. The corresponding rate of reduction during the same time period in girls below 18 years was only 12.5 per cent. While this drop, for girls below 15 years, provides some reason to cheer, it is "still not sufficient to guarantee children their full rights," UNPFA notes.

The slow pace of decline is frustrating as the spectre of child marriage manifests itself in multiple ways — the abrupt termination of education and life-threatening health problems. A body of evidence indicates that teenage girls are less aware of contraceptives, very often do not have access to them and lack the bargaining power to use them. Thus they end up with unwanted pregnancies at a very early stage. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the prime cause of death in teenage mothers and their babies in low- and middle-income countries. Lack of education, rural settings and poor economic status are some of the key determinants of teenage wedlock. The UNPFA report indicates that girls from rural areas in India were twice more likely to be married than urban girls. Those with nil education were thrice more likely to become victims compared to those with secondary or higher education. While minor girls from the poorest families had a 75 per cent possibility of being married, 16 per cent from the richest households ended up the same way. Aside from poverty and lack of education, social norms and perceptions are important factors too. Hence the approach to deal with the two strata should have many commonalities and yet be different. Providing education, creating awareness and offering incentives linked to delayed marriages are more important for the lower strata. Changing social perceptions should be the priority in the case of rich parents.

Hindustan Times, October 10, 2012, P.10

The Hindu, October 22, 2012, P.8

Plight of girl child revealed

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Even though nearly 33% of households among the lower income groups in the city feel that a girl child is abused in school and nearly 48% say they are abused on way to school, 57% of them are still ignorant of the RTE Act two years after its implementation. These and many other facts were revealed in a survey conducted by Child Relief and You (CRY) on 'prevalence of barriers to girl child education' across five cities and 480 households among members of the lower income group.

As per Delhi specific findings in the survey, 43% respondents said that children faced problems while going to school and more

CRY SURVEY

than half of the respondents said that the present transportation was not safe for them, 29% of those surveyed in Delhi were unaware of education as right of every child in the age group of 6-14 years. Over 50% respondents lacked awareness about schemes for the girl child. Also, nearly 30% people are ignorant about the Right of Children For Free and Compulsory Education Act.

The survey was conducted in slum clusters in New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore. The sample size of 480 households was randomly selected from one slum cluster in each city.

The survey also compiled data at an all India level painting an equally dismal picture. Barring Delhi (51.1%) and Bangalore (30.9%), education is not a priority for such households. Equally alarming are the safety concerns as, ac-

PROBLEMS PLAGUING GIRL CHILD

Respondents of CRY study comprised of slum dwellers from New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore. Sample size of survey — one slum cluster from each city, a total of 480 households

ALL-INDIA STATS

- 20.4%** respondents said girls abused in school
- 23.7%** said girls abused on way to school
- 15%** said schools near their locality don't have separate toilets for boys and girls
- 20%** felt education not free in the country
- 57%** ignorant of RTE Act
- 72%** ignorant about schemes for girls
- 12.2%** think boys' education should be given preference



SUGGESTIONS

- Improvement of transport, infrastructural facilities for girls
- Targeting out of school girls who are exploited
- Improving awareness on entitlements
- Behavioural change required in community

Key findings from Delhi

- 33%** said girl child abused in school
- 48%** said girl child abused while going to school
- 43%** said girls faced problems while going to school; **over 50%** felt transportation system not safe for girls
- 29%** unaware that education is a right of every child in age group of 6-14
- 50%** lacked awareness about schemes for girls
- 37%** said girls should get married earlier than boys
- 48%** felt ideal age for girl's marriage should be between 16-18 years

According to the all India figures, 20.4% said girls were abused in school while 23.7% said they were abused on the way to school.

Stating that the report

(volunteer action), Yogita Verma, said, "The report on girl children's education clearly brings out an urgent need to address the issue at all levels. There are still sig-

nificant gaps, especially at the secondary education level."

schools don't have separate toilets for girls. Ignorance is another matter of concern as all India figures revealed that 20% felt that education is not free in the country.

CRY is now suggesting five broad reforms based on this study. "Improvement of infrastructure for girl child, rights from toilets to trained female teachers, transport and security, targeting out of school girl child who are physically challenged or exploited, good governance right from panchayat and block levels so that schemes exclusively for girl are implemented, improving awareness on entitlements and initiatives in overall behavioral change in the community are urgently needed," said Verma.

As per Delhi-specific findings in the survey, 43% respondents said that children faced problems while going to school and more than half of the respondents said that the present mode of transportation was not safe for the girl child. Also, nearly 30% people are ignorant about the Right of Children For Free and Compulsory Education Act

will be submitted to the ministry for human resource development, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and department of women and child development. CRY director

Infrastructure still remains another major factor with 15% respondents saying that neighbourhood

ing that neighbourhood

‘Rising food prices kept 8m Indians chained to poverty’

Social Distribution, Not Lack Of Food, Cause Of Hunger: UN

Dipak Kumar Dash | TNN

Times View

New Delhi: Rising food prices during 2010-11 may have pushed three million Bangladeshis into poverty and kept eight million Indians from getting out of the poverty bracket, a UN report released on Thursday said. In the Asia-Pacific region, food inflation pushed nearly four million people into poverty.

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) report on regional cooperation for inclusive and sustainable development says food prices have gone up primarily due to pressure on a shrinking and neglected agriculture sector, while consumption has risen significantly.

It cites supply-side factors than demand as the key that drove food prices. Increasing cost of fertilizers, competition for arable land, water resource and high oil prices are all responsible for the spike. Commodity market speculation has also been a growing factor behind high and volatile commodity prices.

The report says that the rising food

The UN body's report is only underlining what should be obvious — the most anti-poor measure that any government can take is to allow inflation to go out of control. This is particularly true of food inflation, which hits the poor much worse than it hits those who are better off. When we try to judge reform measures — like allowing FDI in retail or curtailing the subsidy bill through better targeting and a more efficient delivery mechanism — this should be taken into account. If these indeed help keep prices in check, through cutting out the middleman in one case or reining in the fiscal deficit in the other, they can hardly be termed anti-poor as critics of the reforms are prone to do.

price, which contributed to food insecurity, adversely impacted household budgets. Recent estimates by UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) show that over 65% of the household income of poor across the world is spent on food. "In Bangladesh, Nepal

and Sri Lanka, for example, common response to food price rises have been to switch to less expensive food items, reduce savings to spend on food and sell assets to buy food," the report says.

Raising concern over the poor's access to food in the region, it says that children are the first to feel the impact of hunger. For instance, in Bangladesh and India, more than 40% children are undernourished. It explains that the root cause of hunger across the sub-region is not lack of food rather the socio-economic and social distribution is responsible for this evil.

Pointing out the serious flaw in food distribution, the report claims that at national level, "hungry population live side-by-side with people who have easy access to food".

Advocating a robust mechanism for food distribution, it says food insecurity disproportionately affects women, rural folks, migrant workers and tribals. "Children are more likely to be undernourished, but there is also a gender difference as girls far more likely to be hungry than boys," it adds.

The Times of India, October 20, 2012, P.15

साउथ दिल्ली के अस्पतालों में क्यों ज्यादा पैदा होते हैं लड़के !

ज्ञानप्रकाश/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। दक्षिणी दिल्ली के अधिकांश निजी व कॉरपोरेट अस्पतालों में लड़कियों की अपेक्षा लड़कों के पैदा होने का ग्राफ तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। परिवार कल्याण विभाग की योजना 'मेरी शक्ति, मेरी बेटी' के तहत दक्षिणी व दक्षिण पश्चिम जिलों में कराए गए एक सर्वे में यह खुलासा हुआ है। स्टडी के दौरान 789 स्त्री एवं डायनॉस्टिक और इमेजिंग सेंटरों का सर्वे कर यहां जनवरी 2011 से सितम्बर 2012 के बीच हुए प्रसव का ब्योरा एकत्रित किया गया। इन केंद्रों में इस अवधि में 4302 शिशुओं ने जन्म लिया। इनमें से 70 परसेंट लड़के थे।

परिवार कल्याण विभाग के मुताबिक, सर्वे में वसंतकुंज, महिपालपुर, डाबड़ी, द्वारका, वसंत विहार, आरके पुरम, जनकपुरी, सागरपुर, माकपुरी, दिल्ली छावनी परिषद, नारायणा, साउथ एक्सटेशन, सरिता विहार, ईस्ट ऑफ कैलाश फेज 1 व 2, कालकाजी डीडीए फ्लैट्स, बदरपुर, हैदरपुर, डा. अंबेडकर नगर, महारौली, ग्रीनपार्क, हौजखस, मुनिरका गांव, मोतीबाग, अफ्रीका एवेन्यू, लाजपत नगर, कोटला गांव, किदवाई नगर, सरोजनी नगर आदि में चल रहे प्रसूति केंद्रों



व अस्पतालों में जन्म लेने वाले शिशुओं में 70 परसेंट लड़के होने की बात कही गई है। इन इलाकों में प्रसवपूर्व लिंगीय जांच अधिनियम का उल्लंघन करने वाले 16 क्लीनिकों के लाइसेंस रद्द किए जा चुके हैं, जबकि 32 क्लीनिकों को नोटिस जारी किया गया है। हालांकि दुखद बात यह है कि अब तक किसी भी क्लीनिक के मालिक के खिलाफ पीएनडीटी एक्ट के तहत एफआईआर दर्ज नहीं की गई है। न ही किसी को जेल भी भेजा गया है। इस समय दिल्ली में 1000 लड़कों पर लड़कियों की संख्या मात्र 836 है। स्वास्थ्य सचिव अंशु प्रकाश ने कहा कि अब दिल्ली के सभी जिलों में अधियान चलाया जाएगा। पीएनडीटी एक्ट-1994 के तहत ऐसे क्लीनिकों को सील करने की कार्रवाई में तेजी लाई जाएगी। इसके लिए 12 टीमों बनाई गई हैं। ये टीमों सीडीएमओ की अगुवाई में पीएनडीटी एक्ट का उल्लंघन करने वालों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करेंगी।

जनवरी 2011 से सितंबर 2012

789
स्त्री व डायनॉस्टिक और इमेजिंग सेंटरों का सर्वे

4302
शिशुओं ने इन केंद्रों में लिया जन्म

70%
जन्म लेने वाले लड़के

Rashtriya Sahara, October 05, 2012, P.1

Better food, hygiene key to long life

LIVING LONGER

According to latest data, life expectancy among rural Indians has increased by 2.5 years

OVERALL LIFE EXPECTANCY IN INDIA



IN MEN		IN WOMEN	
62.8 YRS	64.6 YRS	65.2 YRS	67.7 YRS
2000-'04	'06-'10	2000-'04	'06-'10

INCREASED BY **2.5 YRS**

New Delhi: Women in Tamil Nadu live 3.8 years longer than men on average, according to the latest life expectancy data to be released by the Registrar General of India this week. In Punjab, the gap is 4.2 years, Maharashtra 4 years, Haryana 2.5 years, Gujarat 4.1 years, Himachal 4.7 years, Karnataka 4.8 years and Kerala 5.4 years.

When it comes to urban males, Himachal took the top spot with an average man living till 72.6 years at 4.6 years longer than an average urban Indian male. An urban female was living longest in Kerala—76.4 years, which was five years longer than an average urban Indian female.

Deputy registrar general Bhaskar Mishra said, "LE of an average Indian is improving by the year. What is most interesting is the widening gap between LE of an Indian male and a female which is a trend similar to developed countries. This may be because of the rapid bridging of the gap in child mortality between males and females. The previous data on LE came out in 2007."

So what are the main reasons for Indians living longer now than a decade ago?

Experts say that the three big reasons for LE to have increased are better food supply and nutrition, healthier lifestyle and better hygiene.

"More people are interested in the nutritional content of the food they eat and plan their diet accordingly. People are consciously making better lifestyle choices that reduce chances or delay the risk of developing diseases. People wash their hands more often that reduces infection rate," a health ministry official said.

In terms of the highest increase of LE between 2002 and 2008, the top five states were Assam and MP (3.1 years), J&K (2.8 years), Odisha (2.6 years), Maharashtra and Rajasthan (2.4 years). The lowest increase in LE in the same period was in Himachal (0.5 years) and Haryana (0.9 years). Between 2000 and 2004, the overall life expectancy of an average Indian stood at 63.9 years.

According to the World Health Organization's health statistics 2011, the global average life expectancy at birth stood at 68 years in 2009 — an increase by two years since 2000.

RURAL INDIA



HIGHEST LIFE EXPECTANCY URBAN

2006-10	Males	Females
HP	72.6	75.7
Kerala	72.3	76.4
J&K	72.2	75
Maharashtra & W Bengal	69.6	73.2
Punjab	69.1	73.5
Lowest in UP	64.8	67.4

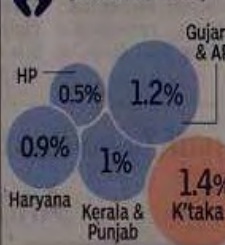
URBAN INDIA



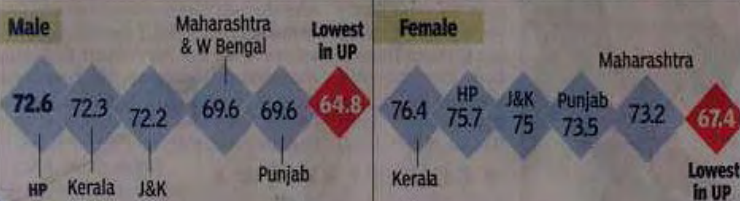
TOP 5 HIGHEST INCREASE IN LE AT BIRTH (2000-04 TO '10)



LOWEST INCREASE IN LE AT BIRTH (2000-04 TO '06-10)



STATES WITH HIGHEST LIFE EXPECTANCY IN URBAN AREA 2006-2010



Blameless but forced to live behind jail walls

56 Children In Delhi Jails With Imprisoned Mothers, DCPCR Report Suggests Providing Them Protection & Care

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: They stay in cramped prison spaces with minimum facilities at their disposal. But they're not criminals. They are the children of women who have been convicted or are facing trial. Over 800 children up to the age of six are languishing in prisons across seven states and union territories, including Delhi, for no fault of their own. Sadly, the juvenile justice system is yet to make room for them under "children in need of care and protection".

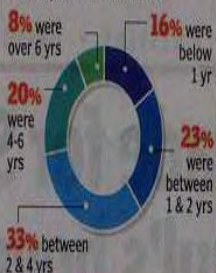
A study undertaken by Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) reveals that 56 such children below the age of six are lodged in Delhi's prisons along with their mothers, as per 2011 data. The study, titled 'Children of Prisoners: A Rights based Perspective', highlights the plight of about 871 children who are imprisoned in 117 jails in Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These children are prone to psychological problems, physical abuse and stunted development due to a lack of facilities, the study points out.

A study-based report compiled by DCPCR member Dr Sarita Sarangi talks about both boys and girls aged below six living with

LANGUISHING INNOCENCE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STUDY

Survey covered 871 children lodged in 117 prisons in 6 states and 1 Union Territory with their mothers



A total of 6,501 women prisoners are lodged in these jails spread over Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal

Of these, 1,885 had children inside jails and 3,380 kids living outside

1,37,223 prisoners (men and women) lodged in these prisons were studied during 2011

Study covered children below 6 years living with parents inside prison, and those between 6 and 18 years living outside

parents inside prisons and children of prisoners aged between 6 and 18 living outside. Of the 6,501 women convicts and undertrials across the seven states/UTs, 1,885



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DELHI

Children of prisoners without proper care and protection should be brought under "children in need of care and protection" definition of the Juvenile Justice Act



A state advisory committee must be constituted to strategize and monitor implementation of programmes for overall development of children

Eleventh Five-Year Plan 2007-2012 identified children of prisoners as a neglected category requiring special attention

WHERE LAW FAILS

Children of prisoners not covered directly under the definition of children in "need of care & protection" of the Juvenile Justice (Care & protection of Children) Act, 2000

"Prison" is a state subject thus the age up to which prisoners are allowed to

keep children with them inside jail varies from 2 to 6 yrs in different states

Children can be sent to the prison with parents if they are young and dependent, have no parental/family support outside the prison, and if they are born in prison

Children can be sent to prison with parents if they are young and dependent,

have no parental/family support outside the prison or are born inside the jail, the report states. It also exposes the lack of coordination between the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system. "Despite being the most vulnerable among underprivileged children, as they also carry an emotional burden arising from the fact that they are the children of a convict/undertrial, these kids are not recognized under "children in need of care and protection" under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2000," the study highlights.

Pointing out that "prison" is a state subject, the report states that the age up to which prisoners are allowed to keep children with them varies from one state to another. For instance, in Bihar the age limit is up to two years, in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra it is up to four years and in Delhi, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka, children up to the age of six can live with prisoners. Once kids cross the particular age, they have to be moved to a hostel or left in the care of relatives or a parent outside jail.

Termining the report 'timely', Delhi's women and child development minister Kiran Walia said that the suggestions for policy changes made in the report should be considered positively, keeping in view the developmental needs of the children of prisoners.

DCPCR chairperson, Arun Mathur, reiterated her views. He said, "Children of prisoners are the most vulnerable section of society. It is time to give in depth consideration to the existing legal mechanisms so that their rights can be safeguarded".

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SC orders new survey to identify bonded labour

New Delhi, Oct. 15: The Supreme Court on Monday directed all states and Union Territories to conduct fresh surveys to identify bonded labour problems in the country and regretted that a large number of children continue to work as domestic help even after the enactment of the Right to Education Act. A bench of justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra said in a judgment

that it shall be the duty of the local bodies and panchayats to identify such children and ensure that they get proper education. "Large number of children are working as domestic help in the urban and rural areas with no chance to go to schools even though the education from Class 1 to Class 8 is compulsory under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act,

'Large number of children are working as domestic help in the urban and rural areas with no chance to go to schools'

2009. "Local panchayats and local bodies should identify such children and ensure that they get proper education. We are not unmindful of the fact that in some households they treat the domestic help just like their children and give food, clothing and education but they are exception." Justice Radhakrishnan, writing the judgment, said. Referring to bonded

labour practise, the top court said that after the perusal of the NHRC and other reports it is clear that the practise is rampant in brick kilns, stone quarries, crushing mines, beedi-manufacturing, carpet weaving, construction industries, agriculture, in rural and urban unorganised and informal sector, power looms and cotton handlooms, fish processing etc. —PTI

The Asian Age, October 16, 2012, P.5

US Lists 21 Products, From Textile To Fireworks

Made-in-India items face child labour slur

Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: There is little respite for Made-in-India garments and zari or embellished textiles, which are among the 21 products that figure in the US labour department's list of goods using child or forced labour. Although manufacturers of the two items had petitioned for their deletion from the list, the report released late last week has refused to do so at least for the moment.

In fact, what will come as a further setback is a study commissioned by the US labour department, which said there is "evidence of labour abuses in a variety of different forms of textile embellishment, beyond the production of zari".

While there are no estimates of the level of child labour involved, the list covers several textile products—from yarn to fabrics and garments—along with carpets, brassware, agarbattis, stones, locks, fireworks and rice.

In its annual listings for 2012, the US labour department said it is estimated that at least 57,000 children aged between five and 17 years are working in the carpet industry in India, Pakistan and Nepal. An International Labour Organization report had said that at least 55% of the forced labour was in south Asia. It listed seven cases where there

HEAVY BURDEN

Goods which are made using child labour	Goods where forced labour is used
Bidis (hand-rolled cigarettes)	✓
Brassware	✓
Bricks	✓
Carpets	✓
Cottonseed (hybrid)	✓
Embellished Textiles	✓
Fireworks	✓
Footwear	✓
Garments	✓
Gems	✓
Glass Bangles	✓
Incense (Agarbatti)	✓
Leather Goods	✓
Locks	✓
Matches	✓
Rice	✓
Silk Fabric	✓
Silk Thread	✓
Soccer Balls	✓
Stones	✓
Thread/Yarn	✓



were instances of forced labour, which included bricks, carpets, hybrid cottonseed, embellished textiles, garment, rice and stones.

Although the listing does not mean any punitive action or import curbs by the US, it is seen as an embarrassment for a country whose products appear on the list. What could cause further awkwardness is the allegation of discrimination against certain Indian castes, a reference probably to the weaker sections such as the scheduled caste. They have been clubbed with reli-

gious minorities in Pakistan and indigenous people in Latin America.

Globally, production of cotton, sugarcane and coffee has seen maximum instances of use of child labour. For the last four years, the US labour department has been releasing an annual list of goods manufactured in foreign countries, often seen as a form of non-trade barrier to exports, which now covers 134 items. It acknowledges that the listing often points to countries openly acknowledging the problem of child or forced labour.

The Times of India, October 02, 2012, P.25

Child marriage high in UP, Khap logic falls flat

BISWAJEET BANERJEE
LUCKNOW

The Haryana khap panchayat's belief, that reduction in the age of marriage would prevent rape, falls flat in Uttar Pradesh where incidents of child molestation are rampant despite many children being married below the legal age of marriage.

UP is second in incidents of child rape in the country. A survey conducted by state-run District Level Health Survey has revealed that in 17 of the 75 districts of UP, over 50 per cent children, both boys and girls, are married before the legal age of marriage while in another 44 districts, this figure is 30-45 per cent.

The legal age of marriage of a boy is 21 years and that of girl, 18 years in India. The situation in some districts of UP is very pathetic. In Shravasti, 72.6 per cent of the boys and 82.5 per cent of the girls get married before the legal age of marriage while in Gonda, this percentage is 62. In Siddharthnagar neighbouring Nepal, 74.1 per cent boys and 62.6 per cent girls get married in their childhood. In Chitrakoot district in the Bundelkhand region, the situation is no different as 86.9 per cent girls tie the nuptial knot before attaining the legal age of marriage i.e. 18 years.

The khap in Haryana said that boys and girls should be married by the time they turn 16 so that they do not stray.

This, it said, would check incidents of rape.

This suggestion goes against the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Even the report of the National Crime Records Bureau belies the khap belief. Available statistics also indicate that rape has nothing to do with age or marriage. A total of 7,112 cases

UP reported the highest number of child rape cases (1,262) followed by MP (1,088) and Maharashtra



CRY study reveals alarming facts about girl education

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI: A large number of Delhiites in the low-income group believe that the ideal age of marriage for a girl should be between 16-18 years while nearly 45 per cent of the respondents in a study conducted by non-government organisation Child Rights and You (CRY) and re-

“33 % agree girl child is abused in school”

“48 % say girls abused on way to school”

leased here on Wednesday accepted knowing school-going girls getting married in their locality.

The study titled 'A rapid assessment of knowledge, attitude and practise on prevalence of barriers to girl child education among lower income groups of the society' also noted that "in Delhi 33 per cent of respondents agree that a girl child is abused in the school and almost 48 per cent respondents said that girls are abused while going to school".

The survey carried out in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore highlighting the survey results in the Capital said: "Forty-three per cent of the respondents said that children face prob-

lems while going to school and more than half of the respondents said that the present transportation was not safe for girls going to school." CRY volunteer action di-

rector Yogita Verma said: "The report on girl children's education clearly brings out an urgent need to address the issue at all levels. While we have made rapid strides in universalisation of primary education over the last two decades, there are still significant gaps especially at the level of secondary education. The findings of the survey conducted by CRY volunteers reinforce the fact that attitude of people towards girl child education is one of the major barriers. It is clear that there is a need for large scale

Further, 37.4 per cent respondents said that if an individual was big enough to work and earn his or her livelihood then the individual should not be considered a child.

Twenty-nine per cent respondents in Delhi were unaware of education as right of every child in the age group of 6-14 years. In the city more than half the respondents lacked awareness about scheme/s for girl children and 37 per cent respondents in the city said that girls should get married earlier than boys."

attitude change."

The survey also noted that in Delhi 48 per cent respondents considered an individual below 18 years as not a

The Pioneer, October 12, 2012, P.7 The Hindu, October 04, 2012, P.4

सात साल से कम उम्र का हर बच्चा अनपढ़!

भिवानी, 16 अक्टूबर (हरप्र)। अगर आपका बच्चा 7 साल से कम उम्र का है और स्कूल में फर्स्ट या सेकेंड स्टैंडर्ड में पढ़ता है तो आप उसे साक्षर मानने की गलती न करें क्योंकि आर्थिक व सामाजिक जनगणना के आधार पर वह निरक्षर है। 1 नवंबर से होने वाली आर्थिक व सामाजिक जनगणना के लिए सर्वेयर को ट्रेनिंग के दौरान यह निर्देश दिया गया है कि 7 साल की आयु के सभी बच्चों को निरक्षर की श्रेणी में रखा जाए।

इस बारे में सर्वेयर को जो निर्देश पुस्तिका दी गई है, उसमें शिक्षा के लिए अलग-अलग 8 कॉलम दिए गए हैं। पहले कॉलम में निरक्षर के लिए निर्देश दिया गया है। इसमें कहा गया है कि 7 साल से कम उम्र के हर बच्चे को निरक्षर माना जाए। 7 साल या उससे ऊपर के वो व्यक्ति जो पढ़ या लिख नहीं सकते उन्हें भी निरक्षर माना जाए। इसके अलावा ऐसे व्यक्ति जो केवल पढ़ सकते हैं लेकिन किसी भाषा में लिख नहीं सकते, उन्हें भी निरक्षर माना जाए। दूसरे श्रेणी साक्षर पर प्राथमिक से कम को है इसमें 7 साल और उससे अधिक आयु के ऐसे लोगों को शामिल किया जाएगा जो किसी भाषा को लिख, पढ़ और समझ सकते हैं लेकिन 5वीं कक्षा पास नहीं हैं।

ग्यारहवीं पास को माना जाएगा 'मैट्रिकुलेट'

भिवानी। सामाजिक जनगणना में सर्वेयर को दी गई निर्देश पुस्तिका के अनुसार, 8वीं की पढ़ाई कर रहे स्टूडेंट्स को 5वीं पास माना जाएगा। पुस्तिका में तीसरे खंड में प्राथमिक के तहत स्पष्ट निर्देश है कि 5वां दर्जा उत्तीर्ण लेकिन 8वीं पास नहीं की प्राथमिक की श्रेणी में शामिल किया जाएगा। इसी तरह ऐसा व्यक्ति जिसने ग्रेजुएशन सेकेंड ईयर पास कर लिया हो और बाई ईयर अभी पास नहीं किया हो भले ही वह फाइनल ईयर में पढ़ाई कर रहा हो उसे 12वीं पास (उच्चतर माध्यमिक) की श्रेणी में शामिल किया जाएगा। इसी तरह 11वीं पास कर चुके और 12वीं की पढ़ाई कर रहे स्टूडेंट्स को 10वीं पास (माध्यमिक) माना जाएगा।

Dainik Tribune, Oct 17, 2012, P.5

राजस्थान समेत 22 राज्यों में कन्या भ्रूण हत्या की स्थिति चिंताजनक

घर पहुंचते ही नवजात बेटियां गायब!

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राजस्थान के कई जिलों के अस्पतालों में बेटियां जन्म लेती हैं। उनकी माएं जननी सुरक्षा योजना के तहत सरकारी सहायता भी ले लेती हैं लेकिन घर पहुंचने के बाद बेटियों की कहानी खत्म हो जाती है। राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार आयोग की रिपोर्ट में यह खुलासा हुआ है। आयोग सदस्य विनोद कुमार टिक्कूव दिनेह लाहौरिया ने पिछले साल राजस्थान में बाल शोषण का जांचा लेने के बाद यह रिपोर्ट तैयार की।

टिक्कू ने 'राजस्थान पत्रिका' को बताया कि नवजात कन्याओं को मारने का यह सिलसिला राजस्थान के कई जिलों में घड़ल्ले से चल रहा है। राजस्थान, मध्यप्रदेश, पंजाब और हरियाणा समेत 22 राज्यों की स्थिति चिंताजनक है।



हालाकि राजस्थान सरकार ने आयोग को आश्वासन दिया कि अस्पतालों में गर्भवती महिला व नवजात बच्चों का रिकॉर्ड रखने पर निगरानी बढ़ा दी गई है। दूसरी तरफ देश में गड़बड़ा रहे लिंगानुपात से बेहद घबराई केंद्र सरकार कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए इसे महत्वपूर्ण एजेंडा बनाने जा रही है।

महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय में विचार हो रहा है कि कन्या भ्रूण हत्या रोकने संबंधी कानून में संशोधन कर डॉक्टरों और क्लीनिकों के साथ-साथ अब उन परिवारों पर भी कार्रवाई की जाए जो इसमें शामिल होते हैं। 2011 की जनगणना के मुताबिक 0-6 साल के बच्चों में बाल लिंगानुपात 1000 लड़कों पर 914 रह गया है। 2001 में यह अनुपात 927 था। बाल लिंगानुपात में यह कमी 1961 से जारी है।

प्रदेश	2001	1991
राजस्थान	909	916
मध्यप्रदेश	932	952
गुजरात	883	928
पंजाब	798	857
कर्नाटक	946	960

Rajasthan Patrika, October 21, 2012, P.30

New study shows steep fall in child sex ratio

SE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

In a startling revelation, a new government study claims nearly three million girls are "missing" in 2011, in contrast to two million "missing" boys in the same period.

The new study shows there are now 48 fewer girls per 1,000 boys than in 1981.

In further evidence of the steep decline in girl child numbers, the study suggests in 2001-2011, the share of children to the total population has declined, and this is sharper for girls than boys in the 0-6 age group.

"The decline in girl child numbers in India is sharper than male children in 2001-11, leading to a skewed child sex ratio," said the Central Statistical Organisation study "Children in India 2012: A Statistical Appraisal".

The study indicates the decade saw an overall drop in the share of children to the total population. Nearly three million girls, one million more than boys, are "missing" in 2011 compared to 2001, and there are now 48 fewer girls per 1,000 boys than in 1981.

What is worrying is that while India's overall sex ratio is improving (up from 927 to 940 in 1991-2011), the child sex ratio has fallen (from 945 to 914 in the same period). "Though the child sex ratio in rural India is 919 (17 points higher than urban India), the decline in child sex ratio in 2001-2011 in rural areas is three times more than in urban India. That is a matter of grave concern," the report adds.

Nearly three million girls, one million more than boys, go 'missing' in 2011 compared to 2001

The Asian Age, October 10, 2012, P.1

तेजी से घट रही है बालिकाओं की संख्या : सीएसओ

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। देश में 2001-11 के दशक में बालिकाओं की संख्या बालकों की तुलना में तेजी से गिरी है जो बालक-बालिका अनुपात और बिगड़ने का संकेत होने के साथ ही काफी चिंताजनक है।

एक सरकारी अध्ययन के मुताबिक हालांकि इस दशक में कुल जनसंख्या में बच्चों की संख्या में गिरावट आई है, पर इनमें से भी बालिकाओं की संख्या काफी तेजी से घटी है। वर्ष 2001 की तुलना में वर्ष 2011 में करीब 30 लाख बालिकाएं घटी हैं जो बालकों की गिरी संख्या से 10 लाख अधिक है।

इसी तरह 1981 में प्रति हज़ार लड़कों पर बिकरी लड़कियां थी अब उसमें 48 की ओर कमी आई है। केंद्रीय सांख्यिकी संगठन द्वारा कराए गए अध्ययन 'भारत में बच्चे 2012-एक सांख्यिकी मूल्यांकन' में कहा गया है कि 'वर्ष 2001-2011 के दौरान कुल जनसंख्या में बच्चों का अनुपात घट गया और छह साल तक के आयु वर्ग में यह गिरावट लड़कों की तुलना में लड़कियों में ज्यादा दर्ज की गई।' रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वर्ष 2001 में इस आयु वर्ग की लड़कियों सात करोड़ 88 लाख थीं, जो वर्ष 2011 में घटकर सात करोड़ 58 लाख हो गईं।

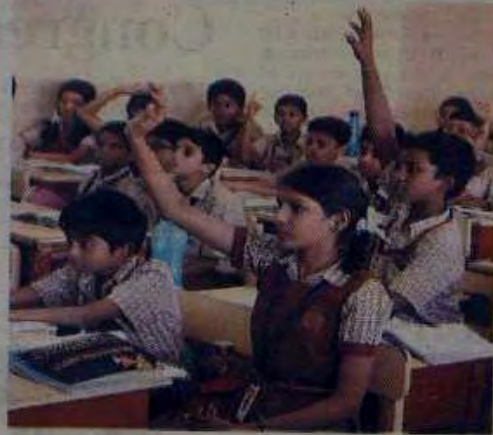
सर्वाधिक बाल अपराध सूची में

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। देश में गत वर्ष बच्चों के खिलाफ अपराध में 24 फीसद की बढ़ोतरी हुई और इस सूची में उत्तर प्रदेश शीर्ष पर है जबकि दिल्ली का नंबर तीसरे स्थान पर है। केंद्रीय सांख्यिकी संगठन ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि 'ये चिंताजनक है। वर्ष 2011 में पिछले साल की अपेक्षा बच्चों के खिलाफ हिंसा में 24 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी के साथ 33,098 मामले प्रकाश में आए हैं।' उसने कहा कि बच्चों के खिलाफ सबसे अधिक हिंसा 16.6 प्रतिशत उत्तर प्रदेश में दर्ज की गई। इसके बाद मध्य प्रदेश में 13.3 प्रतिशत, दिल्ली में 12.8 प्रतिशत और महाराष्ट्र में 10.2 फीसद है।

Rashtriya Sahara, October 10, 2012, P.11

STUDY

Building biases



NOT ALWAYS RIGHT: Misconceptions begin in lower classes. PHOTO: R. RAGU

Divya Trivedi

A recent survey of "top schools" across the country presents a stark picture of the performance levels of students and the world view they are developing.

Student Learning in Metros Study (SLIMS) carried out by Educational Initiatives and Wipro in 2006 assessed students for their conceptual understanding and found that the "top schools" do not promote conceptual learning in students. Quality Education Study conducted recently by the two organisations shows that there has been a further drop from the already unsatisfactory levels of 2006. Students exhibit rote learning and perform comparatively better in questions that are procedural or do not involve deeper understanding or application of concepts.

Further, misconceptions acquired in lower classes continue in higher classes without any correction.

Some of the students surveyed indicate a bias on questions of gender equality, acceptance of cultural and religious diversity, civic, citizenship and ecological responsibilities, which might over time grow into prejudices. "It is possible that children are not getting exposed to different perspectives on these issues and thus their thinking is not well-informed," states the survey.

Classrooms where teachers and principals do not believe in physical punishment and students believe that their teachers treat everyone equally seemed to be linked to greater student performance.

Children are not getting exposed to different perspectives in "top schools"

While a majority of principals think that co-scholastic areas are relevant for building students' self-confidence, self control, sportsmanship, solidarity, teamwork, competitiveness and health, less than half of who said so mentioned that their school places no major emphasis in curriculum for these areas, indicating that what is being said is not often practiced. Practical competencies such as map reading, using good language while writing, measurement, general awareness of well known facts, etc are not developed well.

About 40-43 per cent of students in Classes 4, 6 and 8 felt that education for a girl is not as important as responsibility towards the family, if a choice has to be made between a boy or girl child in providing education, boys are to be preferred over girls. Disturbingly, some of them also felt that in the long run, educating a girl is a waste of resources. While 35 per cent of Class 4 students and 47 per cent of Class 8 students felt that both boys and girls are equally capable, about 15-20 per cent of students in both classes believe that abilities are determined by gender. About 15 per cent of Class 8 students believe that females are more likely to

be burdensome to their parents. The results indicate the deep rooted bias against the girl child even in students from families which probably belong to the educated and higher socio economic strata of society.

Nearly half the students surveyed believe that people come closer to each other due to mutual respect and understanding, and not due to religion. However, the other half had preconceived beliefs about people from other religions and that religious differences matter and need to be defended by violence if necessary. While 29 per cent of students believe that Indians can live and work freely in any state of India, nearly 60 per cent students showed less acceptance towards immigrants from other states as they felt that immigrants have to conform to the state's traditions, they take away jobs from natives of the state and also are a source of communal disagreements. A large majority (70-80 per cent) of students across different classes think of differently-abled people as either burdensome, unhappy or not able to do well in studies. However, acceptance of differently-abled peers as capable people is slightly higher among older students (21 per cent in Class 4 to 29 per cent in Class 8). Sixty per cent of students show lesser sensitivity towards HIV affected people and a lack of awareness about the nature of HIV. This could be because the awareness creation efforts are not effectively reaching out to children. Students in Class 4 seem to have a stronger sense of civic responsibility than students of Class 8 with regard to disposal of garbage. Nearly 20 per cent of students think that it is ok to bend traffic rules in an emergency or as long as there is no personal harm. Regarding environmental issues, 19-23 per cent of students at all three class levels think it is the responsibility of the government, while 32-44 per cent of students at all three class levels understand that personal choice can make a difference to the environment.

The study was planned as a multi-year study to expand the meaning of 'quality' in education to include educational outcomes beyond student performance in subjects and study the attributes of quality learning environments.

The study surveyed about 23,000 students, 790 teachers and 54 principals from 89 schools including six schools recommended by experts as schools providing different learning environments.

Crimes committed by Delhi youth on the rise

Upasana Mukherjee
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Last month, a 16-year-old Delhiite allegedly murdered a 4-year-old boy after the victim's mother spurned his advances. He stabbed the child more than 30 times with a pair of scissors.

In April this year, a 14-year-old boy, who held a grudge against his neighbour over ₹50, allegedly stabbed her to death in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri. He allegedly also killed two other women who tried to save her.

Incidents like these are not isolated — juvenile delinquency is on the rise in the Capital.

Statistics for Delhi by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that cases of juvenile delinquency under the total cognisable crimes committed under the Indian Penal Code have risen from 581 in 2001 to 751 in 2011 — a 29.25% increase in 10 years.

Alarmed by the figures, experts are now looking at the reasons behind the spike.

Chandra Suman, a legal aid counsel at the Juvenile Justice Board at Kingsway Camp, says drug abuse is one of the primary reasons for youngsters getting involved in theft and robbery. Suman adds exposure to violence through new media is affecting their behaviour. "90% of juvenile criminals are from the lower strata of society, so the economic disparity is also a factor," he says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



	2001	2011
MURDER	20	37
ROBBERY	10	64
THEFT	171	259
CHEATING	9	28

Figures represent crimes committed by juveniles in Delhi

sunday special

Crimes committed by Delhi youth...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But young criminals are not just involved in petty crimes. NCRB data for Delhi suggests that cases of murder committed by people younger than 18 increased by 85% between 2001 and 2011, robbery by 540%, cheating by 211% and theft by 5146%.

Amod Kanth, general secretary at the Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice, says 16-18 is usually the age when teens become violent.

The trend is consistent nationwide. In 2001, juvenile crimes in India were pegged at 16,509. In 2011, that figure stood at 25,125.

According to Kanth, poor economic conditions, low literacy rate and family conditions such as the prevalence of alcoholism and violence usually determine whether a child ends up in the world of crime. "30-40% of young criminals are drug addicts," he adds.

And when they do stray, gangs are there to take advantage. A 2011 order by the Juvenile Justice Board directed the police to assess the possibility of children being misused by gangs or groups. Advocate Anant Asthana, who moved a petition in the Delhi HC directing the Delhi Police to implement this order, said,

"In Metro cities, we have seen children being systematically used by organised groups or adults, though that is for crimes like theft only."

Blaming the rise in juvenile delinquency to an overall environment of violence, Shahbaz Khan from the Haq Centre for Child Rights says, "A dysfunctional family, incidences of violence in the family, community, school or a bad peer group result in juveniles taking to crime."

Khan also said many crimes committed by juveniles are gang crimes and that most young criminals are in the age group of 16-18.

Hindustan Times, October 28, 2012, P.1 and 8

4.2 Birth Rate/ Mortality Rate/ Morbidity Rate

Institutional deathbeds

Maternal mortality in hospitals continues to haunt several States in the absence of skilled attention and staff scarcity

Aarti Dhar

A young woman, Anita, who was admitted to a hospital in Jodhpur for her first delivery on February 14 last year, died two days later. Her family had already spent Rs. 60,000 for medicine and blood.

Almost a month later, on March 17, 21-year-old Tasneem was also admitted to Umaid Hospital in Jodhpur for delivery. She died the very next day; her family, too, had spent thousands of rupees on IV fluids and several units of plasma, each costing Rs. 6,500.

In Uttar Pradesh, money was demanded from 23 families even after the patients died during delivery. In fact, a Dalit man had to cycle 17 km through forest path at night to borrow money for his wife's delivery. When he returned, he found her lying dead.

These are some of the cases that came to light during a study on Maternal Death Reviews conducted in a few States. Maternal Death Review has been made mandatory by the Centre and is used to prevent maternal mortality by ascertaining the cause of each death.

While maternal mortality in India has decreased over the last decade, yet it remains a significant problem of women's health and rights. However, the rate of decline is uneven across the States. The Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)



SAFE MOTHERHOOD: There is not enough awareness about the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram. PHOTO: R. ESWARRAJ

— conditional cash transfer scheme to encourage women for institutional deliveries — appears to have led to a huge increase in the proportion of women choosing institutional delivery; however, it has substantially deflected attention from what happens to women who do not or cannot reach hospitals. There is also inadequate assessment of the capacity of hospitals to handle this large volume of cases, and whether providers actually

manage to provide skilled attention to women who need emergency obstetric care. The issues were raised by participants of a seminar 'Chronicles of Deaths Foretold — Using Maternal Death Reviews to prevent Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in India' in the Capital recently.

Discussing the Maternal Death Reviews from Rajasthan, U.P., Jharkhand and Gujarat, Jashodhara Dasgupta of National Alliance of Ma-

ternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR) said a common factor in all the reports above is that most of the women approached institutions during labour (as encouraged by the government through JSY) and most of these deaths could have been prevented if adequate skilled medical attention had been provided.

It was also pointed out that while JSY was popular, there was lack of awareness about

the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram that entitled pregnant women to free delivery and the mother and new born babies to free treatment and food in public health institutions up to a month in addition to free pick up and drop from home to the health facility and back or to a referral hospital as the case may be. Even the staff was unaware of the scheme in the hospitals, thereby depriving the women of this entitlement.

Shobha Shah of Gujarat's Bharuch district said her review of 70 maternal deaths among poor tribal women showed that many had died of malaria or hepatitis or severe anaemia that could not be prevented only by hospital care during childbirth. In Madhya Pradesh, tribal women face neglect and social discrimination in health facilities while in Uttar Pradesh, the health centres do not have staff capacity, equipment and essential drugs to handle a large volume of cases, and often harass women for additional payments. Haemorrhage is one of the main causes of maternal death followed by unsafe abortion, severe anaemia, sickle cell disease, hypertension, sepsis, hepatitis and malaria. Lack of transport or delay in arranging for transport has also resulted in women dying en route to a health facility.

Dr. Shah said a special strategy is required for addressing maternal deaths during antenatal and late post partum period. Her study also shows that there has been a paradigm shift in epidemiology of maternal mortality as increasing proportion of deaths now occurred due to medical causes and in hospitals.

The Hindu, October 12, 2012,

11th plan fails to achieve IMR goal

Won't Reach Target Of 28 Per 1,000 Live Births Even By 2016, Says Report

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: India has failed in achieving its goal of reducing infant mortality rate to 28 per 1,000 live births by 2012 (end of the 11th five year Plan). A latest report by the National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS), which is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), shows that India won't reach the target originally set for this year till as late as end-2016.

The report, which will be released later this month, says that among India's major states, only Kerala and Tamil Nadu are likely to achieve the

national goal and Maharashtra and Bengal will be close to accomplishing the feat.

When it comes to the under-five mortality rate (U5MR), the data — to be released jointly by the ICMR and UNICEF — shows it won't also be able to achieve the target of less than 39 by 2015. Among India's major states, only six states — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Bengal — are likely to achieve the goal by 2015.

Infant mortality rate (IMR) and U5MR measure the probability of dying before one and five years, respectively, as against 1,000 live births.



NO RELIEF

The report admits India's failure to match up with China when it came to protecting its children.

It says that in 1950-55, China and India shared same crude death rate along with

similar infant mortality rate and life expectancy at birth.

"In the course of time, however, China progressed more rapidly than India on these indicators. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births in China and India in the 1950-55 and 195 and 190, respectively, but by 2000-2005, the figure had declined by more than six times in China, whereas it dipped by only three times in India," the report said.

It added, "Even in recent years, China has been faring better. China averaged an annual rate of 4.4% reduction in U5MR since 1990 which puts it on track to achieving MDG4

targets, India during the same period averaged an annual decline of just 2.9% putting it off track for MDG-4."

According to ICMR, during 1968-70, the level of U5MR in India was about 190 per 1,000 live births, while IMR was around 130 per 1,000 live births.

The U5MR started declining in the late 1970s and until 1993 the rate of decline was substantial.

The decline, however, slowed during 1993-98. The country's goal to achieve U5MR less than 100 and IMR less than 60 by 2000 was not achieved despite improved interventions.

The Times of India, October 07, 2012, P.18

Infant mortality rate falls by 3 points

TEENA THACKER
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

Here's good news: the infant mortality rate (IMR) has further dropped by three points from 47 to 44 infants deaths per 1,000 live births during 2011.

According to the recent data by the Registrar General of India (RGI), the national decline is hugely contributed by the high

focus states. Both Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP) has seen a decline by 4 points. Prior to 2005, the high focus states experienced stagnation as far as the IMR is concerned. States with the highest IMR are Madhya Pradesh (59), Uttar Pradesh and Orissa (57), Assam (55), Rajasthan and Meghalaya both (52), Chhattisgarh (48). On the other hand, Goa continued to record lowest

IMR, followed by Manipur (11), Kerala (12), Puducherry (19), Chandigarh (20) and Nagaland (21).

The IMR for the rural areas has dropped too by three points from 51 to 48. The urban IMR, likewise, showed a drop of 2 points (29) as compared to last year of 31 points in 2010.

Officials in the health ministry say that if the trend continues, it will be

easier to achieve the target of 30 points by 2015 as stipulated under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

According to SRS 2011, among all major states Maharashtra has seen the largest percentage decline in IMR of 14.7 per cent, followed by Punjab (11.5 per cent), Karnataka and Kerala (10.3 per cent), TN (9.3 per cent) and Bihar (8.1 per cent). The annual rate

of decline has been 6.2 per cent. Citing that the new initiatives have yielded positive results, Ms Anuradha Gupta, additional secretary in the health ministry and mission director, NRHM said that the best is yet to come. "New schemes like home-based new born care has been rolled out and the results will further accelerate the trend of downfall," she said.

The Asian Age, October 21, 2012, P.14

Free fertility treatment for Parsis okayed

Centre's move aims at arresting the steady decline in the community's population

DNA Correspondent

The Union government has approved a proposal by the minority affairs ministry to bear the cost of fertility treatment in order to arrest the decline of Parsi population in the country. A similar proposal by the ministry had been shot down by the planning commission in 2010 on the grounds that it would spur demands from other communities as well, thereby disturbing the health ministry's family welfare programme designed to control rising population.

In the 12th Plan budget, the Planning Commission has allowed the minority affairs ministry to spend Rs2 crore in the current fiscal to organise fertility camps in areas concentrated by the community in Mumbai, Gujarat and Kolkata. The amount will also be utilised to create awareness on in-vitro fertilisation or IVF technique adoption to increase fertility by engaging health volunteers.

Planning Commission member Sayeeda Sayeedain Hamid had in her report on "empowerment of minorities" highlighted the need to

help Parsis lest it becomes an endangered community in India. The ministry of minority affairs will now present a detailed roadmap to execute the scheme.

The ministry, which conducted a survey before moving the proposal for the fertility clinics, noted that the average number of births per year in the Parsi community has never crossed 200 since 2001 and as such their number is further dwindling. It said that while India's population had grown to 1 billion in 2001, the number of Parsi-Zoroastrians has fallen 39% from 1.14lakh in 1941 to 69,000 in 2001.

Against the general child-woman ratio of 578 per 1,000 in the country, amongst the Parsis, it is just 85 per 1,000. The proposal said late marriages, reduced fertility levels and migration were the major reasons for the decline in the Parsi population.

About 30% of the Parsi population remains single, while another 30% is above 60. And to make matters worse, the death rate in the community is three times the birth rate.

inbox@dnaindia.net

D.N.A., October 19, 2012, P.7

Delhi records lowest death rate in country

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi has recorded the country's lowest death rate among major states. Around 4.3 people die here per 1,000 population at any given time as against Odisha, which has highest death rate at 8.5.

In comparison, Maharashtra recorded a death rate of 6.3 (lower than the national average of 7.1), Tamil Nadu (7.4) and Bengal (6.2).

The Registrar General of India's (RGI) latest death rate data sent to the Union health ministry has pointed to an interesting trend — 1.5 more men are dying in India as against women.

As against 7.8 men dying in the country, 6.3 women perish every year. Two more persons are dying in rural India as against the country's urban parts. While the death rate in rural India stands at 7.6, the corresponding figure is 5.7 when it comes to women.

Death rate in India is highest among rural men at 8.4. Rural women, however, seem to be better off with death rate being much lower at 7.3 compared to their male counterparts. Nationally, seven people die at any given point of time per 1,000 population. When it comes to highest number of deaths among males, it has been recorded in Assam (8.9), while the lowest is in Delhi (4.7).

In case of women, Odisha records the highest number of deaths at 8.2.

Overall in India, states which record a death rate higher than the national average are Uttar Pradesh (7.9), Andhra Pradesh (7.5), Tamil Nadu (7.4), Karnataka (7.1) and Chhattisgarh (7.9). Women, however, are dying the most in Odisha (8.2), Madhya Pradesh (7.5), Chhattisgarh (7.2), Assam (7.1) and UP (7).

Women are dying the least in Delhi (3.9), Maharashtra (5.5), West Bengal and Haryana (5.6), Kerala (5.8) and Karnataka (5.9).

Mortality among rural males is tremendously high in some states like Chhattis-



Delhi has recorded the country's lowest death rate. Around 4.3 people die here per 1,000 people in a year as against Odisha, which has highest death rate at 8.5

garh (9), Andhra Pradesh (9.6), Assam Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh at 9.4 each, and Tamil Nadu (9.2).

Earlier, the RGI had finalized data on life expectancy (LE) at birth which also pointed to how women in India are living longer than men. The LE data says that an average Indian lived 4.6 years longer in 2008 compared to a decade earlier. An average Indian woman lived three years more than her male counterpart in 2008.

While the life expectancy at birth for women was 67.7 years, for men it stood at 64.8 years. This was an increase of 2.5 years and 1.8 years, respectively, when compared to the LE in 2002. Women have a longer life span than males in most of the major states.

In West Bengal and Rajasthan, for example, women lived 3.6 years longer than their male counterparts in 2008. In Tamil Nadu, women lived 3.8 years longer, while in Punjab it was 4.2 years. Maharashtra (4 years), Haryana (2.5 years), Gujarat (4.1 years), Himachal Pradesh (4.7 years), Karnataka (4.8 years) and Kerala (5.4 years). Consequently, the majority of India's elderly are women.

The Sample Registration System (SRS), 2010, confirmed feminization of India's elderly saying that the percentage of women in the age group of 60 years and above is higher in 17 out of the 20 large states.

The Times of India, Oct 31, 2012, P.17

No one's children

Thousands of HIV affected children in India live in utter despair, with no institutional help or effort made to address their plight, says the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, which recently came out with a report based on public hearings over two years in six high prevalence states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur and Delhi. "It is estimated that there are 100,000 children (in India) who need of treatment for HIV and Aids. They continue to live precariously in many parts of the country where they lack access to health care; adequate treatment of the infection and face discrimination, exclusion and isolation," said commission chairperson Shantha Sinha.

According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, an estimated 110,000 children below the age of 15 are living with HIV in India and 21,000 children are infected every year through parent-to-child transmission. Most are infected with the virus while still in the womb, during birth or while breastfeeding. A small proportion is also infected by unsafe injections and blood transfusions.

The National Pediatric Antiretroviral Treatment Initiative was launched in 2006 in India, but despite high promises and schemes, HIV affected children of the country live in absolute hopelessness. In Chennai, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights team came across children like Mukesh, Rani and Satish living at the Selva Indra Palani Memorial Shelter Home in uncertainty. It shelters 40 other children affected by HIV. The children there need educational and nutritional support as well as a permanent shelter.

Sip is not getting a permanent shelter since the house has both HIV-positive and negative children, which, according to some officials, increases the risk of transmission. The shelter home does not have a "fit" institution status (a Fit Institution Certificate is required for running juvenile homes) either, as factors such as space, lack of playground, etc, pose a hindrance. It is not under the net of the Child Welfare Committee either.

Noori, the home's founder and administrator, pays Rs 12,000 per month as

rent and refuses to separate the children (HIV-positive and negative), many of whom are siblings. She herself is HIV-positive and a transgender.

"We directed the district administration after the hearing panel to provide assistance to these children and to look into the possibility of providing a permanent shelter to the home," said Gunjan Wadhwa, research and policy analyst at the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

According to Ivonne Camaroni, head, HIV section at Unicef India, the main challenge in improving the lot of children with HIV is combating social stigma and discrimination. "They are discriminated against by their own families and the healthcare providers. Basic service is limited to them. They are denied education, nutrition, legal assistance and social protection," Camaroni pointed out that though treatment in India was free of cost, identifying the HIV children was difficult. "They come late for treatment.

Many of them die early. There is no strong mechanism to follow the recommendations of bodies like the NCPCR," said Camaroni.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has come out with several issue-based recommendations to improve the lot of the children with HIV. Ironically, the National Aids Control Organisation, which is supposed to spread awareness about HIV/Aids through the media, declined to respond to repeated attempts to get its views on the various findings of the NCPCR.

The Statesman, October 28, 2012, P.1

4.3 Miscellaneous Issues

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY

New 'census' towns showcase new India

URBAN SHIFT
Distribution of India's population by settlement size (urban and rural). More settlements are shifting from the rural to the urban category, according to Census 2011.

Settlement Size	Population (in million)
Class I cities	265
Other urban centres	112
Large villages	200
Medium and small villages	537

BY CORDELIA JENKINS & ANUJA SORAON, UTTAR PRADESH

By the time he turned 50, Kareem Bashir Ahmed had spent nearly 20 years away from home. Long enough, he thought, as he prepared to leave Saudi Arabia, where he'd been working as a mechanic to support his wife and four children back in Soraon, eastern Uttar Pradesh.

But when he finally returned, Ahmed found that the modest potato-farming community he had left behind no longer existed. In its place, he encountered a large, straggling, unlovely settlement of more than 8,000 people, strung loosely along the national highway, 25km north of Allahabad.

"It was all jungle here before," Ahmed said, raising his voice above the noise of the traffic and pointing towards the businesses that now extend for half a mile north of the

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FROM PAGE 1

three quarters of its male working population must be "engaged in non-agricultural pursuits".

Simply put, census towns are populous places where farming is no longer viable and people have turned to other professions. And they are multiplying fast: between the 2001 and 2011 census the number almost tripled, from 1,362 to 3,894, and that is probably an underestimate, given that the census relies on projections from the previous decade's data to make its classifications.

Though villages still vastly outnumber towns in India (Census 2011 estimated 8,000 urban centres, including census towns, in a sea of 660,000 villages), the construct of these villages is changing. Since 1951, the proportion of rural India living in small villages and hamlets (of fewer than 2,000 people) has decreased from 63% to an estimated 28% today according to Census data analysis by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IHS). But, at the same time, the percentage of Indians living in large villages (more than 5,000 people) jumped from 5% to 17%. Not all of these villages qualify as census towns, but most of them merit urban living.

A 2011 report by IHS noticed the striking importance of what it described as a "grey zone", of between 80-140 million people, between the smallest towns and large villages of more than 5,000 people "with an increasingly urban character". In this grey zone lie the census towns and it is here, the report noted, that "the success of India's new manufacturing, livelihood and skill building policies will be sorely tested".

Soraon and other census towns are poised on the threshold of the rural-urban divide, and their liminality poses several problems related to governance and growth. Semi-urban though they might feel, census towns are still run by *panchayats* (village councils) and classified as rural for all official purposes, allowing them to draw on Union government development schemes and exempting them from property taxes.

However, a combination of more people and more money has spurred demand for better roads, proper sewerage systems and 24-hour access to safe water and electricity—the kind of services a *panchayat* finds hard to deliver with its limited resources and capacity.

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THE NEW TOWNS

Ahmed's choice of phrase highlights the ambiguous nature of Soraon. It is one of about 2,500 large villages to be reclassified as a "census town" by the Census of India in 2011.

This urban classification which exists on census paper only, helps differentiate between India's smaller farming communities and the larger market town-type settlements that are experiencing rapid and haphazard growth. To become a census town, a village must fulfil three criteria—it needs at least 5,000 inhabitants, a density of 400 people per sq. km, and, crucially, at least

UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT

On the upside though, wages have gone up in Soraon thanks to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), according to Farooq Raien, the *pradhan* (head of the village council) of Soraon. Under the scheme, at least one member of every poor rural household is entitled to 100 days' manual work in a year.

"Now there's more money for development," he said. "When I was young, eating *rotis* was a luxury, we would do it only when guests came to stay," he reflected. "Now we eat them every day."

Raien, who has had no formal education, used to work at one of the cold storage units built to store the potato crop. Five years ago, there were two or three such units in the village, now there are 12, says Raien. "It's all businessmen who build them," he said.

Over the last two years, Raien estimates that 50% of villagers have started using gas cylinders for cooking food. Soraon boasts four internet centres and as many banks. But, the new prosperity aside, development has happened in uneven jolts. Although fibre-optic cable is being laid from Allahabad to bring high-speed internet to the village, Soraon's roads are still in bad repair, its electricity intermittent and its drains dirty.

Prem Nath, the municipal commissioner of Allahabad, attributes the economic growth in places such as Soraon to better connectivity to urban centres and growing appreciation of land within the city. "Soraon and Shantiparam (a nearby town boasting a flashy Montessori school painted shiny white) are near the national highway," he said. "The railway is there too. So if people want to settle in Allahabad but they have less money, then they'll go there."

But Nath acknowledged that the growth to the north of Allahabad has been unplanned and somewhat haphazard. "Outside the municipal limits, beyond the Ganges and the Yamuna, that is not the concern of the municipal authority," he said.

Some hope that will remain the case. Many residents of Soraon are uneasy at the prospect of becoming an official statutory town with a municipal board and the elections and taxes that would follow.

"There are a lot of people who are opposed," said Raien. "Most people here are not very literate. They think that even if they make a one-room house they will have to pay all kinds of taxes in a town. They also think that for every little thing they will have to do a lot of paperwork with the government."

Raien himself is nervous about any official urbanization and needs constant reassurance that the urban classification is for census purposes only. "When you become a town, then the politicians come along," he observed gloomily.

UNDER THE RADAR

This inherent wariness of government intervention is echoed in the nearby farming hamlet of Chandpur Sarai. There, the village head, Ramkhalawan Patel, is ambivalent about the growth in Soraon. "Slowly, slowly in the last few years there has been a lot of change there," he said. "A lot of people have set up businesses there, even people from this village. In the last four to five years, the population too has shot up."

Asked about the benefits of upgrading Soraon to a statutory township, Patel shook his head emphatically. "Everyone wants

The development story:

1. The burgeoning consumer economy in Soraon has spawned a complimentary industry of repair shops for air conditioners, TVs and refrigerators over the past decade.
2. The main road from Allahabad seen from *pradhan* Farooq Raien's rooftop. Most development has happened along this thoroughfare.
3. Improvements made to the village include solar lighting for its vegetable market.
4. Students at the LDC Institute say their presence has stimulated the local economy and broadened the range of goods available at the market.

Photographs by Pradeep Gaur/Mint

WWW.LIVEMINT.COM

VIDEO

Once a small settlement, Soraon in UP has grown to become a census town. But infrastructure and services are yet to keep up. www.livemint.com

better facilities," he said, "but at the same time you have to understand that if you are on the outskirts of a town, then government takes an interest. And if it wants your land then it can take it. So we are happy being in the interior."

Being one step down the political chain, under *panchayat* rule, might mean slower access to the coveted and elusive "facilities" but it is seen as a safety net too.

At the six-year-old Wi-Fi-enabled campus of the LDC Institute of Technical Studies just north of Soraon, there is little disagreement about the census town's status. "It's totally a village," says Siddarth Singh, a fourth year B-Tech student from Varanasi, who stays in the Soraon hostel.

"In Soraon, they are village people, but because of the coming of this college it has started transforming into a town. The students go into Soraon and they demand particular items that the villagers don't use, like deodorants, and so the shops start to stock them."

"Their standards have increased because of us," said Ekta Mishra, a second year day student from Allahabad, studying for a B-Tech in electronics and communications. "Because of the college being situated in a village, the mentality changes, the dressing sense, the way to talk and the thinking process too. Students from Soraon have started coming here from this year."

Back in his showroom, Ahmed feels the growth in Soraon has been double-edged. He is pleased about the better paid jobs and growth, but he insists that any social development has been limited to the private sector.

"It's all private limited here," Ahmed said, waving his hand in the direction of the new nursing home next door. "That's the thing about these small cities...large villages," he corrected his terminology as he went. "No one really cares about them. They are left on their own."

The second part of the series will examine how industrial growth on the periphery of India's large cities has begun to shape village economies and spurred new demand for infrastructure. cordelia.j@livemint.com

दस में से दो दुष्कर्मियों को ही सजा

► बच्चों के साथ दुष्कर्म के मामलों में घट रहा है सजा का औसत

► देश में हर सवा घंटे में एक बच्चे के साथ होता है दुष्कर्म

कुमार मुकेश

हरिसार, 4 अक्टूबर। पुलिस के पास पहुंचने वाले मामलों को मानें तो देश में हर सवा घंटे में एक बच्चे के साथ दुष्कर्म को एक घटका हो जाती है लेकिन उनमें से सजा सिर्फ 20 प्रतिशत को ही मिल पाती है। बाकी 80 प्रतिशत दुष्कर्मियों को सजा ही नहीं मिलती। यह अलग बात है कि वे इसके लिए

दुष्कर्म पीड़िता से समझौता कर लेते हैं या फिर अन्य कानूनी छानियों का फायदा उठा लेते हैं। इस पर भी हालत यह है कि सजा का यह आंकड़ा बढ़ने की बजाय दिनोंदिन घट रहा है।

यह खुलासा हिमालय के आरटीआई एक्टिविस्ट रमेश वर्मा द्वारा सूचना का अधिकार कानून के तहत प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय से मांगी गई सूचना से हुआ है। आंकड़े बताते हैं कि साल दर साल बच्चों के साथ दुष्कर्म का त्रास बढ़ता ही जा रहा है। वर्ष 2007 में जहां देश में 5045 घटनाएं हुईं, वहीं वर्ष 2008 में बढ़कर यह 5446 हो गई। वर्ष 2009 में कुछ कम होकर आंकड़ा 5368 तक आ गया लेकिन वर्ष 2010 में यह फिर बढ़कर 5484 हो गया। पिछले वर्ष इनमें 29 प्रतिशत को अपराधीता वृद्धि हुई और आंकड़ा 7112 पर आ गया।

दूसरी तरफ बात करें तो वर्ष 2007 में काबू किए गए 5756 दुष्कर्मियों में से मात्र 1210 को ही सजा हो पाई। वर्ष 2008 में सजा का यह स्तर घटकर

18.4 पर आ गया। हालांकि वर्ष 2009 व 2010 में बढ़कर यह क्रमशः 19.5 व 21.3 हो गया लेकिन पिछले वर्ष सजा में काफी गिरावट आई और आंकड़ा 17.4 प्रतिशत पर आ गया।

उत्तर भारत के दिल्ली, हरियाणा, पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश तम्यों की बात करें तो बच्चों के साथ दुष्कर्म के मामले में सिर्फ हिमाचल प्रदेश ही अपराध की राजधानी कहे जाने वाले बिहार से कम है, बाकी इससे कहीं ज्यादा ऊपर है। दिल्ली सबसे ज्यादा है तो पंजाब में हरियाणा से भी ज्यादा दुष्कर्म होते हैं।

दुष्कर्म के मामले में इस क्षेत्र में सबसे कम आंकड़ों के साथ बेहतर स्थिति बनाने वाले हिमाचल प्रदेश का हाल सजा के मामले में खराब है। यहां पर सजा का आंकड़ा 20 प्रतिशत से भी कम है जबकि हरियाणा, पंजाब और दिल्ली में 20 प्रतिशत से कुछ ज्यादा ही सजा मिलती है।

हरियाणा में सजा 22 से 49 प्रतिशत तक

हरियाणा की बात करें तो वर्ष 2007 में यहां बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के 122 मामलों में 148 को गिरफ्तार किया गया लेकिन सजा 42 को ही मिली। वर्ष 2008 के 70 मामलों में 110 काबू किए लेकिन सजा 30 को मिली, वर्ष 2009 में 116 मामलों में 115 काबू हुए और सजा 57 को मिली, वर्ष 2010 के 107 मामलों में 121 काबू हुए और सजा 27 को मिली-पिछले वर्ष के 66 मामलों में 73 काबू हुए और सजा 28 को मिली।

पंजाब में 19 से 32 प्रतिशत तक हुई सजा

पंजाब में वर्ष 2007 में बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के 135 मामलों में 127 को गिरफ्तार किया गया लेकिन सजा 24 को ही मिली। वर्ष 2008 के 106 मामलों में 130 काबू किए लेकिन सजा 39 को मिली, वर्ष 2009 के 210 मामलों में 259 काबू हुए और सजा 56 को मिली, वर्ष 2010 के 144 मामलों में 184 काबू हुए और सजा 59 को मिली

जबकि पिछले वर्ष के 166 मामलों में 172 काबू हुए और सजा 52 को मिली। हिमाचल में बाईं से 30 प्रतिशत तक हुई सजा

हिमाचल प्रदेश की बात करें तो वर्ष 2007 में यहां बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के 48 मामलों में 40 को ही गिरफ्तार किया गया और सजा मात्र एक को ही मिली। वर्ष 2008 के 68 मामलों में 65 काबू किए लेकिन सजा 13 को मिली, वर्ष 2009 के 63 मामलों में 90 काबू हुए और सजा 12 को मिली, वर्ष 2010 के 72 मामलों में 107 काबू हुए और सजा 11 को मिली जबकि पिछले वर्ष के 72 मामलों में 83 काबू हुए और सजा 8 को मिली। चंडीगढ़ में 29 से 54 प्रतिशत तक मिली सजा

चंडीगढ़ में वर्ष 2007 में यहां बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के आठ मामलों में 11 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया और सजा छह को मिली। वर्ष 2008 के 10 मामलों में 12 काबू किए लेकिन सजा

पांच को मिली, वर्ष 2009 के 21 मामलों में 20 काबू हुए और सजा सात को मिली, वर्ष 2010 के 16 मामलों में 27 काबू हुए और सजा आठ को मिली जबकि पिछले वर्ष के 15 मामलों में 17 काबू हुए और सजा आठ को मिली।

दिल्ली में 18 से 40 प्रतिशत तक मिली सजा

दिल्ली में वर्ष 2007 में बच्चों के साथ हुए दुष्कर्म के 398 मामलों में

423 को गिरफ्तार किया गया और सजा 77 को मिली। वर्ष 2008 के 301 मामलों में 312 काबू किए लेकिन सजा 84 को मिली, वर्ष 2009 के 307 मामलों में 387 काबू हुए और सजा 104 को मिली, वर्ष 2010 के 304 मामलों में 349 काबू हुए और सजा 172 को मिली जबकि पिछले वर्ष के 339 मामलों में 402 काबू हुए और 127 को मिली।

Banks aplenty, toilets few

WHEN NATURE CALLS Bereft of sanitation facilities, 53% Indians head to fields

ht SPECIAL
Prasad Nichenamotla
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NEW DELHI / GWALIOR: Indians have better access to banks than toilets.

Badagaon Jagir is a village of 300 households in Gwalior district. Thanks to the ultra-small branch of the Central Bank, opened under Madhya Pradesh's financial inclusion model, the village boasts of complete banking coverage with over 1,200 accounts.

When it comes to toilets, however, the picture isn't quite as flowery. About half of Badagaon Jagir's population still goes to the fields when nature calls.

This story of this village, however, is not unique. Though the

HIGHS AND LOOS

59% of Indian households avail banking services, as compared to 47% have access to a latrine

63% of population has mobile phone connections

47% Indians have television sets

The government has roped in Vidya Balan to encourage public to construct toilets

country has made impressive strides in effecting financial inclusion of the poor, basic sanitation is something it is struggling hard to achieve.

As much as 59% of Indian households avail banking services, the latest compilation of India in Figures-2012 shows. In comparison, only 47% of the households have a latrine, and as much as half lack drainage facilities.

Census 2011, on the other hand, showed that the number of mobile phone connections surpassing toilets by leaps and bounds - standing at 63% of the population.

While the recent comparison of temples and toilets by minister for drinking water and sanitation Jairam Ramesh may have kicked up a storm, policy makers and activists admit that the open defecation issue has

received little attention on the planning board. Therefore, it's hardly surprising that more Indians (47%) have television sets than water connections at their homes (43.5%).

Noting the average Indian's fascination with television and the cinema, the ministry roped in actress Vidya Balan to play the role of ambassador for a tabooed subject - toilets and sanitation.

Last week, Ramesh launched a 2000-KM Nirmal Bharat Yatra passing through five states that fare poorly in matters relating to sanitation - Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

There were 28,000 nirmal grams - open defecation-free village panchayats - till 2011-end, compared to over 24 lakh panchayats in the country.

Average Indian's lifespan set to rise over next 10 years

HIGH ON LIFE

According to data released by the government on life expectancy, an average Indian's lifespan will continue to increase

(Source: National Health Profile 2011)

PROJECTED LEVELS OF EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT BIRTH IN INDIA AND MAJOR STATES

Male 69.8 Year 2021-25 INDIA



TOP 5 HIGHEST LE FOR MALES (2021-25)



TOP 5 HIGHEST LE FOR FEMALES (2021-25)



Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: The lifespan of an average Indian will continue to increase over the next decade.

By 2016, an average Indian male and female will live till 68.8 and 71.1 years, respectively. This will increase by one more year for an average male by 2021 (69.8 years) and by 1.2 years for an average female (72.1), according to Union health ministry's life expectation (LE) at birth projection released last week.

When compared to the LE estimates of 2008 — to be announced by the Registrar General of India (RGI) this week and reported by TOI on Tuesday — the lifespan of an average Indian male will increase by 5.2 years and that of a female by 4.6 years between 2008 and 2021.

Interestingly, the gap of LE between a male and a female will start to diminish by then. While an average Indian woman lives 3.1 years longer than her male counterpart, the LE difference will come down to 2.5 years by 2021.

However, some things won't change between now and 2021.

The life expectancy of an average Indian male will continue to be highest in Kerala. While the RGI's data shows it is presently 71.5 years for an average male in Kerala, the Union health ministry National Health Profile 2011 released last week says it will be 75.2 years in 2021.

As far as females are concerned, Kerala once again will take the top spot in 2021 with an average woman living as long as 78.6 years then as compared

to 76.9 in Kerala now.

The five states with highest LE for an Indian male in RGI's 2008 data are Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal. This list by 2021 will see J&K and Himachal Pradesh disappear to make way for Gujarat and Haryana.

As far as LE of a female is concerned, the new entrants in the top five list in 2021 will be Karnataka and Gujarat in place of J&K and Himachal.

The phenomenon of females living longer than their male counterparts will continue till 2021.

However, the states which will see the highest difference between the LE of a female against that of an average Indian male will be Karnataka (4.5 years), Andhra Pradesh (3.9 years), Maharashtra and Odisha (3.8 years), Rajasthan (3.5 years), Kerala and Tamil Nadu (3.4 years), West Bengal and Punjab (3.3 years) and Gujarat (3).

The difference, however, won't be much in a few states like Bihar (0.8 years), Assam (1.7 years) and Madhya Pradesh (1.3 years).

According to the World Health Organization's health statistics 2011, the average life expectancy at birth stood at 68 years in 2009 — an increase by two years since 2000. The health statistics 2011 had said that an average Indian (both sexes) lived eight years longer in 2009, compared to what he did two decades ago. However, it was still three years less than the global average LE.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

5. Schemes/ Programmes Related to Women and Children

5.1 Schemes/ Programmes

'Track Child' project to be implemented across the country

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI: With the country registering a sharp rise in the number of missing children, the Union Women & Child Development Ministry has decided to implement the "Track Child" project all over the country simultaneously instead of on a pilot basis.

WCD Secretary Prem Narain in his letter noted that a large number of children go missing each year in the country due to various reasons including trafficking for labour, sexual exploitation and begging. "The Ministry is aware of the growing numbers of these children and keeping this in view we have decided to go in for a simultaneous country-wide programme."

"The track child scheme envisages putting in place a child tracking system which is aimed at maintaining real time data of all children

- A national portal to be set up containing details of missing children reported in police stations
- The Ministry has asked all the States to appoint a nodal officer for implementation of the project

availing rehabilitation services under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

The software also provides for setting up a national portal containing identification details of the children under various schemes as well as missing children reported in the police stations. The portal would facilitate matching of the children availing services under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme with the reported missing children.

According to a letter issued by the WCD, earlier this week, the project is being implemented by the Ministry through the National Informatics Centre.

The Ministry has now asked all the States to appoint a nodal officer for implementation of the project which they claim will require intensive co-ordination between the police and agencies working for rescues and rehabilitation of children. "We have also advised the States to facilitate data entry at the field level, provide computers with Internet connections in child welfare committees, juvenile justice boards, children homes, shelters and adoption agencies for which funds will be provided under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme," said Mr. Narain.

Adding that providing in-

frastructure was only the first step forward and that the benefits of the software would start flowing in only when the data is updated on real time basis by all stakeholders, Mr. Narain said: "This we hope will lead to converge on the national portal for easy monitoring of children in the system and expeditious matching of missing and found children."

The letter issued by the WCD Ministry also noted that it will be organising training of functionaries through the National Informatics Centre in every State to train trainers and help states upload already available data. Efforts are also being made to sensitise the police and Integrated Child Protection Scheme functionaries regarding track child with the Ministry keen that the benefits of the project starts flowing in by the end of this year.

The Hindu, October 18, 2012, P.4

State proposes financial incentive scheme for girls

MUMBAI: Maharashtra government has proposed a special financial incentive scheme aimed at bringing under its ambit girls from below poverty line (BPL) families, PTI reports.

'Lek Soniyachi', named after UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, is aimed at covering 2.72 lakh girls born every year in BPL families.

The scheme will cost the state exchequer Rs 576 crore of which Rs 273 crore will be spent for the welfare of SCs and STs. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 21,200 will be deposited in the name of each girl child belonging to BPL family with insurance company. After the girl attains age of 18, the amount of Rs one lakh will be paid to her.

The Free Press, October 15, 2012, P.7

5-point plan to save mother and child

• OUR BUREAU
New Delhi

A conference of the BJP-ruled and BJP-backed states' health ministers, held at Gadchiroli in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, on Monday decided to carry out a 5-point Save

mother, Save child (Maata-Baalak Pran Raksha) campaign to take care of the health of mothers and children and prevent malnutrition.

In a press note issued here, the Bhartiya Janata Party's Good Governance Cell said that the conference was attended by the health ministers of Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.

The 5-point programme unanimously adopted by the conference includes a comprehensive health guarantee card ensuring all necessary health check ups and treatments to all the married women, time-bound, structured programme to ensure home and village based health

services to mother and child and conduct of mother-child health melas in Yastras, Urs and socio-cultural events.

The programme also covers extension of the scope of girl child development programme with the objective of reaching minimum 90 per cent of adolescent girls to ensure their comprehensive health care with emphasis on supply of iron tablets through schools and institutions like Asha and converting the present Asha scheme into a credible health care service for all mothers and children, especially in rural areas with the help of regular training and certification of Ashas with direct payment to all Asha workers into their bank accounts.

The Free Press, October 10, 2012, P.4

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

Redeeming the pledge of Universalisation and Rededicating for improved services through strengthening and restructuring ICDS.

Services offered by ICDS:

- Supplementary nutrition
- Nutrition & health education
- Pre-school non-formal education
- Referral services
- Health check-up
- Immunization

Target Beneficiaries: Children below 6 years of age • Pregnant and Lactating (P & L) Women

Key features

- Programmatic, Management and Institutional reforms - ICDS in Mission MODE
- Anganwadi as "vibrant ECD centre" through revised package of services
 - Greater focus on under three years children
 - Strengthening early child hood education
 - Care and counseling of mothers and family
- More than 2 lakh Anganwadis to be constructed
- More than 25000 new technical human resource
- More than 4.5 lakh additional Anganwadi workers/nutrition counselors/link workers
- Improved Supplementary nutrition
- 70,000 Anganwadi cum crèches
- Intensive monitoring, training and capacity building
- Greater convergence and linkages with other sectors Health, Education, Water and Sanitation, Rural Development and PRIs; etc
- Flexibility to States and flexibility in programme implementation



Progress in ICDS:

Approved coverage:

• Projects	7076
• Anganwadi (AWCs)	14 lakh

Present coverage:

• Projects	7005
• Anganwadis (AWCs)	13.19 lakh

Total Beneficiaries for

Supplementary Nutrition	964 lakh
• Children (6 months to 3 years)	435 lakh
• Children (3 to 6 years)	347 lakh
• Pregnant and Lactating Women	182 lakh
Pre-School Education (3 to 6 years)	352 lakh

COME AND AVAIL ALL SERVICES FROM ANGANWADIS FOR:

- Improved nutritional status of young children, pregnant and lactating woman
- Enhanced early learning, growth and development of young children

ICDS Symbol of India's commitment to her children since 2nd October 1975

Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Hindustan Times, October 02, 2012, P.11

Govt to converge schemes to rehabilitate sex workers

Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: The Delhi government plans to converge all the existing schemes for women, children and the marginalized to integrate sex workers into mainstream society and rehabilitate their children. Surveys show there are about 37,000 sex workers in the capital. Of these, some 4,000 are crammed into hellholes at Swami Shradhanand Marg, commonly referred to as G B Road.

The initiative comes after the Supreme Court asked for a model project to rehabilitate sex workers in Delhi. The court has also directed the government to put in place a scheme for protection and development of the children of sex workers as well as their rehabilitation. Chief secretary P K

Tripathi, who was present during the hearing in SC, asserted that efforts were under way to converge the various schemes.

The government plans to use an MCD school building on Swami Shradhanand Marg, currently in disuse, for setting up a round-the-clock crèche for

SC DIRECTION

children of sex workers.

At present, there is no such government facility on this stretch, forcing sex workers to lock up their children on terrace at night. A small crèche though is being run near the dilapidated building by an NGO.

Ravikant, president of NGO Shakti Vahini, which has been working closely with sex workers, says the SC directives are a step in the right direction

and the government's initiative is a welcome move. Tripathi said the government has to apprise the court by November first week of how benefits of the schemes for the vulnerable will reach sex workers.

"We have schemes for women in distress, children in need of care, pension and medical help for patients of HIV/AIDs, etc. Under this model, we will reach out to sex workers. They first need to be informed about such schemes," Tripathi said.

In a survey by Delhi Commission for Women, 60.7% sex workers said they had children. Of these, 54.7% could not keep their children with them. Children of most respondents were staying with their grandparents; 10.51% said their children were either in boarding schools or orphanages.

The Times of India, October 01, 2012, P.8

यूपीए सरकार को आई गरीबों विधवाओं व विकलांगों की याद

पेंशन 200 से बढ़कर 300 होगी, सहायता राशि बढ़कर 10 से 20 हजार होगी

रोशन/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। चोट बैंक बढ़ने को कवायद में जुटी फंड को यूपीए सरकार को अब गरीबों, विधवाओं और विकलांगों की याद आई है। समाज में उपेक्षित जीवन जी रहे इन लोगों को आर्थिक मदद पहुंचाने की नीयत से सरकार इनकी पेंशन 200 रुपए प्रतिमाह से बढ़ाकर 300 रुपए करने का रही है। इतना ही नहीं अब तक गरीब परिवारों को मिलने वाली सहायता राशि 10 हजार को बढ़ाकर 20 हजार रुपए किया जा रहा है।

प्रधानमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में कल होने वाली कैबिनेट को बैठक में इस बार सीमित एजेंडा पेश किया जा रहा है। इसको वजह है कि वित्त मंत्री पी विद्वानरम और योजना आयोग के उपध्यक्ष मंडेक सिंह अल्लूवालिया विदेश दौर पर हैं। कल पेश किए जाने वाली एजेंडा सामाजिक सरोकार और

चोट बैंक से जुड़ा है। अभी सरकार गरीब विधवाओं और गरीब विकलांगों को इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय विधवा पेंशन और इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय विकलांग पेंशन योजना के तहत 200 रुपए प्रतिमाह देती है। कई समारोहों और राजनीतिक दलों ने इस राशि को बढ़ाने की मांग की थी।

सरकार ने इस राशि को बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है लेकिन महज 100 रुपए। कैबिनेट में इस राशि को बढ़ाकर 300 करने का प्रस्ताव है। कैबिनेट में एक और प्रस्ताव पारित किया जा रहा है कि राष्ट्रीय परिवार लाभ योजना के तहत गरीबों को मिलने वाली अनुदान 10 हजार रुपए से बढ़ाकर 20 हजार रुपए किया जाए।

त्याद राशि बढ़ाने पर विचार :

किसानों को मिल रही खाद राशि बढ़ाने पर भी सरकार विचार कर रही है। तेल और एलपीजी की कीमत में बढ़ोतरी से परेशान किसानों को राहत देने के लिए सरकार यह कदम उठा रही है। सरकार का प्रस्ताव है कि खाद सब्सिडी को मोबाइल मॉनिटरिंग प्रणाली से जोड़ा जाए ताकि सब्सिडी किसानों तक पहुंचे।

कैबिनेट में आज होंगे अहम फैसले

► ईसेफेलाइटिस से निपटने के लिए घरेलू पल्स पोलियो जैसा अभियान

► देशभर में खुलेंगे छह हजार मॉडल स्कूल

पिछले 30-35 सालों से फैले जापान बुखार (इम्पेफेलाइटिस) की रोकथाम के लिए सरकार बड़ा कदम उठाने जा रही है। हर साल सैकड़ों बच्चों को लीलने वाले इस बुखार की रोकथाम के लिए पल्स पोलियो जैसा अभियान चलाया जाएगा। इसके

तहत टीकाकरण, ज्वर केंद्र बढ़ाना, आइसोप की संख्या बढ़ाना, पीढ़ियों के पुनर्वास को व्यवस्था करना आदि शामिल होगा। सरकार ने रिफ्लेने सोल स्वस्थ मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में एक मंत्रिसमूह का गठन किया था, जिसने रिपोर्ट पेश कर दी है। उरी रिपोर्ट पर कैबिनेट निर्णय लेगी।

6000 मॉडल स्कूलों के लिए केंद्र 75 प्रतिशत धन देगा : केंद्र सरकार ने देश में 6000 मॉडल स्कूल खोलने का निर्णय लिया है। इसे अमल में लाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार 75 प्रतिशत और राज्य सरकार 25 प्रतिशत धन लगाएगी। इस प्रस्ताव को कैबिनेट मंजूरी देगी।

जूट के दौले अनिवार्य : जूट उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार जूट के बोरे, डौले व अन्य सामग्री का उपयोग अनिवार्य करने का रही है। सरकार के भी जो सामान पैक होंगे वे जूट के ही सामान से ही पैक किए जाएंगे।

विधवा, विकलांग...

अक्टूबर से लागू माना जाएगा। मंत्रिमंडल ने राष्ट्रीय परिवार लाभ योजना के तहत मिलने वाली राशि को भी 10 हजार से बढ़ाकर 20 हजार कर दिया है। इन निर्णयों को लागू करने के लिए प्रति वर्ष 1325 करोड़ 10 लाख रुपए की जरूरत होगी।

मछुआरों का कर्जा माफ : मंत्रिमंडल ने अंडमान निकोबार के सुनामी प्रभावित मछुआरों के कर्ज तथा ब्याज को माफ करने के प्रस्ताव को भी मंजूरी दी है। इन मछुआरों का गत मार्च तक का 210 करोड़ रुपए का ऋण तथा ब्याज है। इस निर्णय से 370 मछुआरों को फायदा होगा।

सरकार ने 14वें वित्त आयोग के गठन को मंजूरी दी : सरकार ने आज 14वें वित्त आयोग के गठन को मंजूरी दे दी। आयोग केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच कर राजस्व के बंटवारे के बारे में सुझाव देता है। सरकार हर पांच साल में नए वित्त आयोग का गठन करती है। अन्य बातों के अलावा आयोग राज्यों और स्थानीय निकायों को दी जाने वाली अनुदान सहायता के बारे में भी नियम-सिद्धांत तय करेगा जिसके आधार पर एक अप्रैल 2015 से पांच साल तक अर्बेडन किया जाएगा। इससे पहले 13वें वित्त आयोग का गठन पूर्व वित्त सचिव विजय केलकर की अध्यक्षता में किया गया था।

राष्ट्रीय वाहन उद्योग परिषद के गठन को मंजूरी : केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने राष्ट्रीय वाहन उद्योग परिषद (एनएवी) के गठन को आज मंजूरी दे दी। यह निकाय सरकार तथा उद्योग के बीच कड़ी का काम करेगा और क्षेत्र में शोध एवं विकास गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देने के उपाय करेगा। भारतीय वाहन क्षेत्र के सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एनएवी लिखित निष्ठाव होगा। एनएवी सरकार के लिए खासकर पेटेंट और इलेक्ट्रिक पर चलने वाले वाहनों के विकास के लिए शोध संस्थान के रूप में काम करेगा। इसमें भारतीय उद्योग, योजना आयोग तथा इंजीनियरिंग एवं राजमार्ग, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, परिवहन तथा वन सतत लिखित मंत्रालयों के प्रतिनिधि होंगे। इसके अलावा इसमें वैज्ञानिक तथा उद्योग जगत के प्रतिनिधि शामिल होंगे।

Rashtriya Sahara, October 11, 2012, P.1 and 2

'Urban poor unaware of welfare schemes'

Special Correspondent

JAIPUR: The daily struggle of slum dwellers for getting basic amenities and the glaring deficiency in the reach of the much-touted urban poverty alleviation schemes as well as other programmes for welfare of widows, disabled people and destitute children were revealed during an awareness drive launched by two voluntary public service institutions in slum colonies here this week.

The campaign, as part of which activists representing the two institutions went to the slums in different parts of the city to interact with the residents, also enabled slum dwellers to raise their voice against the lack of civic amenities and highlight the absence of welfare measures about which the Jaipur Municipal Corporation and the government should have been making frequent claims.

Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) programme officer Tripti Sharma and Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) members Deepmala Malhotra and Gopal Ram Verma interacted with the people residing at J. P. Colony in Vidyadhar Nagar zone and Baiji Ki Kothi slum in Jhalana Doongari area earlier this week. One of the objectives was to apprise the



Activists interacting with slum colony residents in Jaipur earlier this week. - PHOTO: ROHIT JAIN PARAS

slum dwellers of official schemes for housing, infrastructure development and social welfare.

Activists visiting J. P. Colony were shocked to learn that none of the 450-household strong locality had any knowledge about the State government's schemes. Ms. Sharma said there was total lack of awareness about schemes which can benefit the poor, indicating that schemes were being implemented in a "superficial manner".

Despite a major sewage drain passing along the locality, J. P. Colony has been deprived of basic hygiene. This has prompted the residents to come together and make arrangements for basic

amenities on their own. They pooled money to lay temporary water pipes running over the road surface and even connected a sewage line with the main open drain flowing along the slum.

Local resident Rashid Khan said the on-surface water pipes were a mess and made it difficult for children and the elderly to walk in the dark. The slum locality, situated on a slope, is prone to such accidents with people falling over and injuring themselves. Naina Devi narrated the shortcomings of privately-laid sewage pipes, saying they were too small and choked frequently.

Another resident Shahida questioned the need of the government if slum dwellers

had to arrange for the bare minimum infrastructure themselves. Daily wage earner Shaukim (35), suffering from polio, obtained a disability card for himself to claim disability pension and travel for free in State buses. Despite the documents, he is denied access to any of the welfare schemes for disabled people. Mitthu Lal Naik, also suffering from polio, had the similar story to tell.

Abandoned by her father, Renuka (10) lives with her widow grandmother who herself is struggling to earn a livelihood. She works as domestic help to survive. Similarly, Fardeen and Sareen are destitutes who need urgent support.

Ms. Sharma said such children and the families with whom they live could avail of the Palanhaar Yojana, in which a fixed monthly amount as well as annual assistance is paid to the family. At an age they should be going to school and enjoying their childhood, adverse circumstances have forced these children to work, she added. Besides, 19 widows and several elderly persons residing in the slum find it extremely difficult to make ends meet. A major difference could be made to their standard of living with the help of widow and old age pensions.

The Hindu, October 22, 2012, P.7

Good news for millions of children in States hit by Japanese Encephalities

Union Cabinet okays comprehensive strategy for prevention, control of disease

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: There is good news for millions of children vulnerable to Japanese Encephalities and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in 15 States. The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved a comprehensive strategy for prevention and control of the disease.

The Rs.4,038 crore proposal of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for intervention/activities recommended by the Group of Ministers will be implemented in 60 priority districts for five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17.

The Ministries of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Social Justice and Empowerment, Housing and Urban Poverty

• **Rs.4,038-crore proposal of Health Ministry recommended by Group of Ministers**

• **JE has a mortality rate of 25%; 30% of survivors suffer from physical, mental impairment**

Alleviation and Women and Child Development will also be involved in the implementation. Initially, the programme will focus high-burden States such as Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Japanese Encephalities/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome is a major public health challenge, with the children below 15 years being the worst affected. The disease has a mortality rate of 25

per cent; among the survivors, 30-40 per cent suffer from physical and mental impairment.

Last year, it claimed 1,169 lives, and so far this year, 967 deaths have been reported, with Uttar Pradesh alone accounting for 362. Tamil Nadu has reported 40 deaths and 541 cases. Of the total disease burden, 75 per cent in 2010 and 50 per cent in 2011 is in Uttar Pradesh.

The proposal envisages public health interventions,

expansion of vaccination, and improved case management, medical and social rehabilitation, drinking water supply and sanitation in rural and urban areas and nutrition.

The plan will help to reduce the number of JE cases by strengthening of vaccination and vector control, and AES cases by checking the transmission of entero-virus in children through safe drinking water and enhanced nutrition.

The States affected by the disease this year include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Nagaland.

The Hindu, October 19, 2012, P.9

मिड डे मील पर संकट, स्कूल न हो जाएं सूने!

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के सस्ते दर पर एलपीजी सिलेंडर न देने के निर्देश से बच्चों की पढ़ाई पर ब्रेक लगने की नौबत



अगरतला के एक स्कूल में मंगलवार को मिड डे मील खाते बच्चे।

कुणाल/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के एक नए फरमान के चलते कई राज्यों में मिड डे मील योजना पर ब्रह्मण लगने के आसार बन गए हैं। मंत्रालय के सस्ते दर पर एलपीजी सिलेंडर न देने के निर्देश से खाने के बहाने से ही स्कूल जाकर शिक्षा ग्रहण करने वाले करोड़ों छात्रों को पढ़ाई पर ब्रेक लगने की नौबत आ गई है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को साफ कह दिया कि वह मिड डे मील के लिए सस्ते दर पर एलपीजी गैस नहीं देगा। मंत्रालय इसके लिए अपने बजट में इसका प्रवाधान करे। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के इस सख्त कदम से मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय सकते हैं। इससे जहाँ 10 करोड़ से ज्यादा बच्चे प्रभावित होंगे वहीं 20 लाख से ज्यादा लोग बेरोजगार भी हो सकते हैं।

सूत्रों के अनुसार पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के मार्केटिंग विभाग ने गत सप्ताह मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को पत्र संख्या पी-25011/44/2012 भेज कर सब्सिडी पर मिड डे मील के लिए एलपीजी सिलेंडर देने पर मनाही कर दी है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा 29 सितम्बर को भेजे गए पत्र

संख्या 11-1/2011-एमडीएम डेस्क के जवाब में पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने कहा है 13 सितम्बर को हुई कैबिनेट की बैठक में एक वर्ष में मात्र छह सिलेंडर सस्ते दर पर देने का निर्णय लिया गया। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि वित्त मंत्रालय ने सब्सिडी घटा दी है। दो दिन पूर्व मिले पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के इस पत्र से मानव


► दस करोड़ से ज्यादा बच्चे हो सकते हैं प्रभावित
► बीस लाख से ज्यादा लोग हो सकते हैं बेरोजगार
► देश के 12.70 लाख से ज्यादा स्कूलों में है मिड डे मील की व्यवस्था

संसाधन मंत्रालय सकते हैं। क्योंकि देश में प्रतिदिन 10 करोड़ 70 लाख से ज्यादा बच्चों को मिड डे मील कैसे देगे। वैसे अभी देश के 12 लाख 70 हजार से ज्यादा स्कूलों में मिड डे मील मिलता है। इसके सभी स्कूलों में गैस चूल्हे नहीं हैं।

एक अनुमान के अनुसार अभी जितने स्कूलों में गैस चूल्हे से मिड डे मील बनता है, अगर उसी के लिए गैस का इतना मिलाया जाए

तो उस पर 700 करोड़ का मंत्रालय पर अतिरिक्त भार पड़ेगा। अगर सभी स्कूल लकड़ी के चूल्हे का प्रयोग करते हैं तो लकड़ियों काटने और परिवहन पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा। केंद्र सरकार के इस कदम को लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, पंजाब, प. बंगाल, झारखंड, पंजाब और महाराष्ट्र जैसे राज्यों की सरकार ने मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय को लिख कर कहा है कि गैस को भारी परेशानी होगी और मिड डे मील योजना को बंद करना होगा।


Rashtriya Sahara, October 17, 2012, P.13



Beti Bachao Abhiyan
Commenced on 5th October, 2011

Achievements

- First state in the country to launch Beti Bachao Abhiyan.
- First state to give pension to parents of only daughters, at 60 years age.
- Birth of girls celebrated in the state.
- Many Panchayats decide to celebrate the birth of girl child in the village.
- Parents of single girl child facilitated at government functions.
- 12 lakh girls benefited by Ladli Laxmi Yojna.
- Encouragement to bright girls for higher education through 'Gaon Ki Beti' and 'Pratibha Kiran Yojna' in rural & urban areas, respectively.
- Free bicycles distributed to girls going to school far from home.
- 50% seats reserved for women in local bodies.
- Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojna, for weddings of girls of poor families.
- Beti Bachao Abhiyan praised at international level.
- Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan invited by World Bank for a lecture on Women's Empowerment.



IN FAVOUR OF DAUGHTERS GOVT. OF MADHYA PRADESH

The Times of India, October 08, 2012, P.14

मिड डे मील योजना विवादों में



दिलीप देवरा
भोजन विभाग

इन दिनों टोपी फैसलों पर सरकार की ओर से मिड डे मील के बारे में बड़ा लुभावना प्रयास देश की जनता को गुमनाम करने के लिए किया जा रहा है। बच्चों को जहां तक मिड डे मील की योजना का संबंध है। इसके शुुरुआत 1922 में तमिलनाडु में गुजराती व्यापारियों ने सौराष्ट्र बाल विद्यालय से शुरू की थी। 1982 में तमिलनाडु के तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री एम.जी. रामचंद्रन ने इसे तमिलनाडु के सभी स्कूलों में दसवीं कक्षा तक पहुंचे वाले बच्चों के लिए लागू किया था। 1995 में केंद्र की वर्धमान राव सरकार ने इसे देश भर में लागू करने का फैसला किया था मगर अधिकांश राज्यों ने इसमें रुचि नहीं दिखाई। 28 नवंबर 2001 में देश के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने सरकार को यह निर्देश दिया कि सरकार पूरा देश में सभी सरकारी स्कूलों एवं सरकारी सहायता वाले प्राथमिक विद्यालयों के सभी छात्रों को उपस्थित करे। 2005 में इसे देश भर में लागू कर दिया गया। सरकार ने यह सब किया कि देश के 60 प्रतिशत बच्चे पीएचटि से रह जायें हैं। इसलिए उन्हें पीएचटि आधार देना बेहतर जगहों है। छात्रों एवं उनके अभिभावकों को उपस्थित कराना है जबकि सचिवों और के लिए अनुदान दिया जाता है। प्रत्येक स्कूल में छात्र बनाने के लिए रसीदों का निर्माण, भोजन बनाने वाले बर्तनों और ऐसे बच्चों

यकौति और कान्ठोंच आदि होते हैं जिसके कारण उनके लिए भोजन करना कठिन होता है। पांच हजार स्कूलों में पोरोसे जाने वाला भोजन बीएस-स्वस्थता कि.मि.यू.दू.से तैयार करके लाया जाय है जो कि बर्तनी हो जाता है।
वैसे जब से यह योजना शुरू हुई है वह विवाद के घेरे में रही है। 2006 में दिल्ली पुलिस ने इस योजना में एक चोरी का पदोन्नत किया था। पुलिस ने आठ टुक चवल की बर्तियों से भर हुए बरामद किए थे जो कि उत्तर प्रदेश के बुलंदशहर जिले में दिल्ली लाए गए थे। इन टुक चवलों ने यह दावा किया कि इन चवलों को सार करने के लिए दिल्ली की फैक्ट्री में लाया जा रहा है मगर बाद में जब से यह सार हुआ कि उत्तर प्रदेश स्थित एक एनबीओ ने सरकारी अधिकारियों से साठ-गाठकरके इसे राजधानी में बेचने के लिए भेजा था। पश्चिम बंगाल के दार्जिलिंग जिले में भी पुलिस ने एक मुकदमा दर्ज किया जिसमें इस क्षेत्र के निवासियों ने यह शिकायत की थी कि गत 18 महानों से स्कूलों में मिड डे मील का विचार नहीं हुआ और सारा छात्र अभ्यापकों ने फालो बजार में बेच दिया है। कर्नाटक में येलाका के एक अध्यापक ने यह शिकायत की थी कि इस क्षेत्र के स्कूलों में अध्यापक छात्रों की संख्या बढ़-चढ़ कर रिकार्ड में दिखते हैं और इसको आड़ में मिड डे मील के छात्रों को ब्लैक में बेच दिया जाता है। अधिकारियों ने शिकायतकर्ता को पूना सरान किया कि उसे आमतौर पर तक करनी पड़े। कर्नाटक के समाचारपत्रों में 2010 में लोकसूचना के कर्नाटक राज्य बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग की अध्यक्ष को एक रिक्तता की जांच की थी जिसमें यह आरोप लगाया गया था कि मिड डे मील का एवं बाल विकास सेवाओं के तहत दी जाने वाली ग्रांट एवं भोजन सामग्री को ब्लैक में बेच बा रहा है। जांच करने पर यह शिकायत सही पाई गई और एक दर्जन से अधिक सरकारी अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गई। लोकसूचना के अधिकारियों ने इस योजना के एक संयोजक के घर पर छाप मारकर एक करोड़ की संपत्ति बरामद की जो कि उसने बाल कल्याण योजनाओं में पोर्टली से संपर्क की। उड़ीसा में विधानसभा में विचार ने मिड डे मील में करोड़ों के पोर्टली की रिक्तता की जिसके कारण राज्य की महिला एवं कल्याण विकास मंत्री प्रमिता मलिक को अपने घर से त्यागपत्र देना पड़ा। विजिलेंस विभाग ने राज्य के विभिन्न स्कूलों पर छाप मारकर इस योजना में हो रहे पोर्टली के अनेक मामलों का परीक्षण किया था। छात्र बता रहे हैं कि यह सब पोर्टली सरकारी द्वारा निवृत्त जांच कर्मियों की देख-रेख में हो रहे हैं। करोड़ों के इस पोर्टली के संबंध में अभी जांच चल रही है। प्रथम बंगाल के उत्तरी दिनाचल जिले में मिड डे मील योजना में सब करोड़ रुपए का पोर्टली पाया गया है। पुलिस ने इस संबंध में एक मुकदमा दर्ज किया है और इस संबंध में जांच चल रही है। उत्तर प्रदेश के मेरठ जिले में मिड डे मील के कौशल पोर्टली में जांच की जा रही है। प्रथम बंगाल के उत्तरी दिनाचल जिले में मिड डे मील योजना के कई मामलों की जांच पुलिस और विजिलेंस विभाग कर रहा है।
बहरहाल इस बात की है कि केंद्र सरकार इस योजना पर पुनर्निर्माण करे ताकि बच्चों को पीएचटि एवं स्वास्थवर्द्धक छात्रा नियमित रूप से उपलब्ध हो सके। इससे कुपोषण की भीषण समस्या पर कुछ पाया जा सकेगा। राज्य सरकारों को भी कहना है कि काम लेना चाहिए और पंचायत एवं विलसत पर इस योजना में हो रहे प्रश्नकार पर निर्यात करने का पूरी हमदारी से प्रयास करना चाहिए।

बिहार से या उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्यप्रदेश हो या कर्नाटक, उड़ीसा हो या असम, पश्चिम बंगाल हो या आंध्र प्रदेश कोई भी राज्य ऐसा नहीं जिसमें सरकार द्वारा इस योजना को पूरी ईमानदारी से लागू किया जा रहा हो। इस योजना में भ्रष्टाचार के लिए केंद्र राज्य सरकारों को दोषी ठहराता है तो राज्य सरकारों केंद्र पर दोष मढ़ देती हैं। पहले भोजन तैयार करने का काम संबंधित विद्यालयों के अध्यापकों के जिम्मे था मगर अब इसका ठेका गैर सरकारी एनजीओ पर है।

को पोरोसे जाने वाले बर्तनों की भी केंद्र सरकार ही व्यवस्था करती है। इसके लिए राज्यों को आर्थिक सहयता दी जाती है मगर इस योजना को लागू करने की जिम्मेवारी राज्य सरकारों पर है। राज्य सरकारों ने इस योजना पर नजर रखने के लिए पंचायत, सहस्राल और जिलास्तर पर सलहाकार समितियां गठित कर रखीं हैं। जिनमें जन प्रतिनिधि एवं सरकारी अधिकारी शामिल होते हैं। यह कठमय सब है कि वे जांच कर्मियों अमीरी पर अपने क्षेत्र के विद्यालयों में विवरित होने वाले भोजन की जांच करने के लिए अमीरी पर सौंके पर जाकर निरीक्षण करने का कष्ट नहीं करते। सारी रिपोर्टें दर्जनों में बैठे-बैठे बावू लोग ही तैयार कर देते हैं। सरकार द्वारा दी जाने वाली भणगार को मिल नांट कर हड़प लिया जाता है जबकि छात्रान और दातों आदि को ब्लैक में बेच दिया जाता है। अशुभ बच्चे भूखे प्यासे रह जाते हैं। यदि केंद्र अधिभावक इस धांधली के खिलाफ आवाज बुलंद करता है तो उसे खामोश करने के लिए सारा सरकारी तंत्र हरकत में आ जाता है।
हाल में ही योजना आयोग ने बीस राज्यों में स्थित 25 हजार स्कूलों में गुण जांच करवाई है। इस जांच के अनुसार 80 प्रतिशत स्कूलों में मिड डे मील का विचार निरमित रूप से नहीं हो रहा है। बच्चों को जो खान परोसा जाता है वह निर्धारित लक्ष्यभूत मूल्य के अनुसार नहीं होता। आमतौर पर बच्चों को चवल और पानीदार दाल परोस कर होटका दिया जाता है। जो खाना स्कूलों में भोजन तैयार करने के लिए प्रकृत किचन नहीं है। इन स्कूलों के अध्यापकों ने इन बात को पुष्टि की है कि प्रतिदिन 10 औंसान सात आठ दिन ही स्वस्थसेवा सुस्थलों के कर्मचारी बच्चों की चावल और दाल परोस कर खानापूर्ति कर लेते हैं। कई स्कूलों में दालि बच्चों के लिए अण्डा भोजन बनाने पर भी अधिभावक चार देते हैं। इस सब से इस बात की भी पुष्टि हुई है कि मिड डे मील योजना के लिए दी जाने वाली ग्रांट और चालर ब्लैक में बेच दी जाती है। 90 प्रतिशत बच्चों ने यह शिकायत की है कि स्कूलों में परोसा जाने वाला मिड डे मील में कंकड़ कोड़े-

Meghalaya Gov to launch health scheme soon

SHILLONG, Oct 7 - Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma today said his government is soon launching the 'Megha' Health Insurance Scheme under which families will stand to get insurance worth Rs 90,000.
The Insurance scheme would be in line with the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), a Central scheme which provides insurance coverage to BPL families, he said.
Mukul also handed out relief cheques to 150 infirm, disabled and widows who were beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Special Assistance Scheme at a function held here.
Under the scheme, 150 beneficiaries hailing from the capital and nearby Myllem area were each given assistance of Rs 500 per month. The Chief Minister said the reason for conceptualisation of the scheme could be summed up in one sentence - 'My heart told me to do so'.
Under the scheme, 150 beneficiaries hailing from the capital and nearby Myllem area were each given assistance of Rs 500 per month. The Chief Minister said the reason for conceptualisation of the scheme could be summed up in one sentence - 'My heart told me to do so'.
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विधवा, विकलांग पेंशन में ₹100 की बढ़ोतरी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। देश में बने राष्ट्रीयक महाहन को देखते हुए केंद्र सरकार फटाफट लोकलुभावान योजनाओं को मंजू करने में जुट गयी है। आज ही कैबिनेट ने विधवाओं और विकलांगों को पेंशन की राशि 200 से बढ़ाकर 300 कर दी है और गरीबों को एकमुश्त मदद की राशि को भी 10 हजार से बढ़ाकर 20 हजार रखा कर दिया गया है। सुनमी पीड़ित मधुआरी कर कर्मा भी माफ किया गया है।

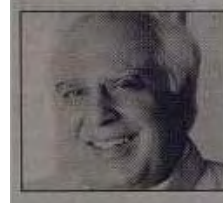
विधवा पेंशन में 100 की बढ़ोतरी की गयी है। बेटक में विधवा पेंशन के लिए निर्धारित अधिकतम आयु 59 वर्ष से बढ़ाकर 79 वर्ष कर दी गई है जबकि न्यूनतम आयु 40 वर्ष ही रखी गई है। विकलांगता पेंशन योजना के तहत लाभार्थियों की निश्चित अधिकतम आयु भी 59 से बढ़ाकर 79 वर्ष कर दी गई है और न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष ही रखी गई है। पेंशन में बढ़ोतरी का निर्णय एक प्रथममंत्रि ममोमोहन सिंह की अध्यक्षता में आज लोकलुभावान योजनाओं को मंजू करने में जुट गयी है।

हमने यह समाचार 11 अक्टूबर को प्रकाशित किया था

Rashtriya Sahara, Oct 19, 2012, P.1

The Assam Tribune, Oct 09, 2012, P.7

Mid-day meal: Sibal wants LPG subsidy to stay



New Delhi
HRD Minister Kapil Sibal has suggested to Petroleum Ministry to continue providing LPG cylinders at subsidised rate for the midday meal programme this fiscal amid concerns that the scheme could be hit by the cap on cooking gas.

Noting that the cap on LPG for the midday meal at this stage would burden the Centre to compensate the states for the increased cooking fuel cost, he has suggested the decision on whether to make an exception for the scheme could be revisited at the time of finalising the 2013-14 budget. "It might be preferable at this point to provide for subsidy as earlier for LPG cylinders, instead of seeking approval for an increase in cooking cost which would necessitate revisiting allocation for the mid-day meal scheme and seeking Parliamentary approvals for the increased allocation," Sibal said in a letter to Petroleum Minister S Jaipal Reddy. Sibal had expressed the hope that the issue would be "certainly" resolved.
Additional funding to run the scheme or the Petroleum Minister continues to provide subsidised cylinder for the programme, he told. Sibal, in said if the subsidy available to the scheme was being withdrawn, "the govt would have to bear the expenses on fuel cost in the form of subsidy for LPG cylinders or in the form of compensation for the increased cooking cost". The ministry has projected that with the cap on subsidised LPG cylinders, the expenditure on LPG would jump from Rs 653 crore to Rs 1306 crore annually, which would be 11.6 per cent of the total allocation for the mid-day meal programme.



BALANCED APPROACH NEEDED: Insurance agencies found focusing only on inpatient, often surgical care. PHOTO: V. GANESAN

The expanding cover

Aarti Dhar

A World Bank study on health insurance in India has recommended increasing health insurance coverage for both outpatient and inpatient care to include all poor and near-poor patients. It suggests a balanced approach, building upon infrastructure already available, augmenting it with accessible private capacity and utilising the lessons learned from the existing government-sponsored health schemes.

The World Bank study named 'Government-sponsored Health Insurance in India: Are You Covered?' carried out for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare says over 300 million people or more than 25 per cent of India's population gained access to some form of health insurance by 2010, up from 55 million in 2003-04. More than 180 million of these were people below the poverty line.

It also suggests that new and innovative health financing schemes can help India progress towards universal health coverage. It estimates that more than 630 million people or half the country's population was likely to be covered with health insurance by 2015.

"This is just a report on health insurance and should be taken as such," Keshav Desiraju, Special Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said when pointed out that the recommendations of the report were totally opposite to the report of the High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage that has suggested moving away from insurance. The study provides new knowledge that will help policy makers

A World Bank study for the Health Ministry recommends health insurance for outpatients and innovative health financing schemes for universal coverage

at a time when India is rapidly expanding the breadth and depth of health coverage, he added.

According to the study (based on secondary data), over the past five years, government-sponsored schemes have contributed to a significant increase in the population covered by health insurance in the country, scaling up at a pace possibly unseen elsewhere in the world. Going by these trends, the study projects that by 2015 more than 630 million people can be covered with some form of health insurance. In 2015, spending through health insurance is also likely to reach 8.4 per cent of total health spending, up from

6.4 per cent in 2009-10, it says.

"The new generation of health insurance from the government has pioneered many innovative features. They hold the potential to spearhead reforms in the public delivery system by strengthening accountability by linking financing to outputs. However, the current coverage is far from comprehensive and the schemes face many challenges," said Gerard La Forgia, World Bank's Lead Health Specialist.

One of the main challenges of these health insurance schemes is that these are focussed on inpatient, often surgical care. Besides, working on deepening their benefit packages, the government schemes also need to address several issues like cost containment, quality enhancement, consumer information and monitoring and evaluation. "We need a more robust and effective scheme like the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana covering a larger section of society, particularly poor, but some issues like unnecessary surgeries need to be addressed," Mr. Desiraju said while making a persuasive case for stronger regulatory mechanism for insurance companies.



INCLUSIVE COVERAGE: More robust schemes like Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana needed. PHOTO: K. GANESAN

The Hindu, October 18, 2012, P.14

5.2 Policies

OPTIMAL DEVELOPMENT

Govt Moots Early Childhood Care Policy

The major planks of the draft national policy are universal access, equity and quality and strengthening capacity building

Express News Service

New Delhi: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has called for evolving an 'Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) policy' aimed at promoting optimal development and active learning capacity of children below six years of age.

WCD Minister Krishna Tirath said: "The policy seeks to universalise the provisions of the ECCE for all children through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), which has a network in all nooks and corners of the country."

The minister was speaking after a day-long deliberation with experts, policy makers,

government officials and representatives from non-government sector on the draft national ECCE policy.

Stressing that the ECCE provisions would be governed by a strong quality framework, Tirath said the major planks of the draft national policy were universal access, equity and quality and strengthening capacity building.

"Special plans will be developed for the most marginalised and vulnerable groups besides repositioning of AnganWadi Centres (AWC) as vibrant child-friendly centres with adequate infrastructure, financial and human resources for ensuring a continuum of

ECCE in a life cycle approach and child-related outcomes," she said.

AWC-cum-creches with provision of full range of services, including care, planned early stimulation; health, nutrition and interactive environment for children below 3 years will be developed, piloted and scaled up in response to the community needs.

The minister added that the national ECCE policy will be the guiding light for ICDS and ECCE provisions across the country.

The ECCE proposes early stimulation for children under three years old, largely through parental involvement and a joyful learning

programme for 3-6 years old children. Tirath added that context-specific curricula would be developed within these broad parameters.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Prem Narain, Secretary in the Ministry, said it proposes to strike a balance between centralised and decentralised governance for running of ECCE pro-

gramme. He also said that the ministry would constitute a national body to oversee the policy framework for consistent and effective implementation of the policy framework.

Regulatory authorities in the respective states shall ensure effective administration of the policy framework.

EARLY STIMULATION FOR CHILDREN

The ECCE proposes early stimulation for children under three years old, largely through parental involvement and a joyful learning programme for three-six years old children.

PROVISION OF FULL RANGE OF SERVICES

AWC-cum-creches with provision of full range of services, including care, planned early stimulation; health, nutrition and interactive environment for children below 3 years will be developed and piloted.

The New Indian Express, October 31, 2012, P.9

5.3 Legislation/ Bills/ Court Orders

Advocating for a rights approach

Activists raise their voices against the draft of the Mental Health Care Bill, 2011, and ask the government for more consultations

Arati Dhar

As the World Mental Health Day is being observed across the globe, in India - that has 30-40 million people with mental illnesses - there are divergent views on the Mental Health Care Bill, 2011 drafted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The proposed new law seeks to provide for access to mental health care and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of persons with mental illness during the delivery of mental health care and services.

Unhappy with the Mental Health Care Bill, 2011, a group of activists working in the mental health sector have sought a review of the Bill drafted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"There should be more consultations on the Bill and the final draft should be made public," Javed Abidi, convenor of the Disabled Rights Group told reporters here to mark the World Mental Health Day, adding that it seems to heavily favour institutionalised care for those suffering from mental ailments while the world was working for de-institutionalised care.

"There should be a moratorium on the construction of more mental institutions while full promotion of community mental health and support systems for all persons with disabilities such as urban mental health programmes, group and peer support, neighbourhood care systems and addressing stigma, trauma informed services and a huge range of psychosocial interventions along with rational drug treatment through general hospitals," Bhargavi Davar, co-chair of National Alliance on Access to Justice for People with Mental Illness (NAAJMI)



UNITED: A protest outside Health Ministry against Mental Healthcare Bill. PHOTO: V.SUDERSHAN.

said.

In a memorandum submitted to the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ms Davar said a process of de-institutionalisation and mainstreaming of people with disabilities who are currently in indefinite or lifelong incarceration on the basis should be initiated immediately.

The activists said their main concern was that the

Bill maintained the status quo on mental asylums, while the right to choose or refuse treatment has also been removed. "Mental illness is the only category of 'disease' within the medical discipline which till today has the lowest burden of proof. There exist no tests, body scanning or other empirical methods about the scientific validity of mental illness. In this fragile situation where questions

about the scientific validity of psychiatry are being raised world over, the Mental Health Care Bill hands over power to psychiatrists to deprive a person's liberty. With the law under which you can forcibly keep a person inside a private asylum for two months, renewable after a day's parole, the business interest of private players in the mental health system is very evident," Ms Davar added.

Elaborating on the provision of Advance Directive wherein a person with mental illness can exercise choice of treatment by drawing up Advance Directive which is a legal contract, Mr Abidi said the Bill itself says that it can be potentially challenged by the treating psychiatrist or a relative or a family member.

On the other hand, All India Federation of Mental Illness (AIFMI) -- a federation of organisations working for persons with mental illness and their families - says that it is aggrieved by the extreme positions taken by some activists and feel that the draft bill is a saviour for persons with mental illness and the best that could have happened to the mental health sector in our country.

"Many of the comments about the Bill are based on a strong expression of sentiments and are not supported by what is contained in various sections of the Bill. It may not be wrong to assume that the Bill has not been studied properly by many and the comments made are rather hasty and not borne by what is contained in the draft bill," says Anurit Bakshy, president of the Federation.

According to Mr Bakshy, the Bill has been drafted after elaborate deliberations with stakeholders. "While keeping it United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities compliant, the drafting team and the Minis-

try have tried to accommodate various view points as expressed during regional and national consultations. It is, however, not possible to satisfy everyone to the fullest extent. As the draft Bill is now almost ready to be introduced, interest in it has again been revived. As it often happens, while many find the draft Bill a great leap forward for mentally ill, some apprehensions are also being voiced," he said, adding that debates are healthy and are an essential part of a democracy. The Federation would like stake holders to discuss and debate the Bill based on specific sections and provisions so that it remains meaningful and helps in our getting a law which meets our aspirations, he says.

The existing Mental Health Act (MHA) was passed in 1987 but it came into effect in April 1993. The MHA replaced the Indian Lunacy act of 1912, which had replaced the Indian Lunatic Asylum Act of 1858.

The 1987 Act was a vast improvement over the 1912 Act. Disparaging terminologies of Indian Lunacy Act 1912 were dropped and polite terms were used. With a view to improving standards of mental health care, a licensing authority was provided to exercise check on grant of licenses and working of psychiatric hospitals. Provision was made for establishment of new psychiatric hospitals. Outpatient care was provided to avoid detention for manageable cases and an attempt was made to simplify procedure for admission to and discharge from a psychiatric hospital/nursing home. Provision was made for appointment of managers and guardians for maintaining property and caring of mentally ill and ensuring that treatment expenses are paid by relatives or government.

No guidelines to prevent child abuse in capital: Plea

Abhinav Garg | TNN

New Delhi: Despite a spate of child abuse cases, the capital doesn't have any guidelines to prevent sexual abuse of children in schools and educational institutions, claimed a PIL in the Delhi high court earlier this week. It cited an RTI reply received from the Delhi government and urged HC to intervene.

A division bench of Chief Justice D Murugesan and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw has sought a reply from the Delhi government and the Centre by December. The Juvenile Justice Act Rules make it mandatory for the authorities to frame such guidelines.

The PIL was filed by HAQ Centre for Child Rights through its lawyer Ananth Asthana, who pointed out that despite Juvenile Justice Act Rules Section 31 making it clear that guidelines are needed, there has been no movement on the same, and the authorities have woken up only

HC SEEKS GOVT STAND ON PIL

Once an incident of sexual harassment took place.

While the guidelines will go a long way in preventing sexual abuse of kids in schools and other educational institutions, making it easier for children to lodge a complaint, the entire focus at present is towards taking action against the accused after the incident, the PIL argues.

The PIL urges HC to constitute a committee including members from Delhi Legal Services Authority, Delhi Child Rights Protection Commission and its counterpart at the Centre, National Child Rights Protection Commission, Delhi Police, Juvenile Justice Board and Child Welfare Committee. They can go into the issue of framing comprehensive guidelines.

The PIL informs the court that the same plea was made a part of another PIL that demanded probe into allegations of child abuse in a Delhi orphanage, but the court while deciding the case declined to pass directions, and instead recommended a separate PIL for it. The petitioners elaborated on how the JJ Act mandates creation of a children's committee in all institutions.

Bill to give mentally ill a say in their treatment

Durgesh Nandan Jha | TNN

New Delhi: A person suffering from a mental illness may be allowed to decide whether or not he wants to receive treatment if the Mental Healthcare Bill drafted by the Union health ministry comes through. The bill, which will be brought before the Cabinet for the final nod, introduces a new clause, Advance Directive, which empowers any person — who has the capacity to make decision — to decide on the treatment they want to receive. The concept, though new to India, is popular in many Western countries. Under the clause, a person who is not a minor can make an 'advance directive' in writing, specifying the way he or she wishes to be cared for in case of a mental illness. He/she also has the option to nominate an individual or individuals, in order of precedence, as a

HOW YOU WANT TO BE TREATED

An advance directive is a declaration signed by a person with or without any history of mental illness on:

- A** Whether he/she wishes to be treated for mental illness
- B** And/or the way he/she wishes not to be cared for
- C** The individuals, in order of precedence, he/she wants as nominated representatives

▶ The directive shall not apply to emergency treatment (activists say this can be misused)

Other important clauses in Mental Health Care Bill, 2011

- ▶ If minimum health services are unavailable in district where a person resides, he/

she is entitled to access any other mental health service in the region. Cost of treatment to be borne by govt

- ▶ Essential medicines enumerated in WHO list shall be available free of cost



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▶ Any person, who is not a minor, and who considers himself/herself to have a mental illness can get himself/herself admitted and be discharged on request. However, a mental health professional may prevent discharge on certain conditions — causing bodily harm to self/others & violent behaviour. Activists say the clause can be misused

Prohibited treatments

- ▶ Electric shock therapy without use of muscle relaxants & anesthesia
- ▶ Electric shock therapy for minors
- ▶ Sterilization of men/women
- ▶ Chaining the patient in any manner

representative, the draft bill states. The directive has to be signed by a medical practitioner certifying that the person has the capacity to make a mental healthcare or treatment decision, and that the person has made the choice of his own free will, it adds.

A senior health official explained, "People can sign the directive to make the treatment choice in view of an eventuality in future. For example, some of them may not want to be kept alive in comatose and permanently vegetative state with the help of medication. Others might not want to get admitted forever to a mental health institution. The new law, if passed, will give them the liberty to decide all this."

The draft bill also prohibits electric shock therapy without use of muscle relaxants and anesthesia in adults. For minors, the shock therapy has

been banned completely under the new bill. Around 13 crore Indians suffer from some sort of mental illness — depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorders.

Many activists claim excessive power has been given to mental health professionals. "The advance directive is a welcome decision. But its very purpose is defeated in Section 2(viii), which states that 'notwithstanding any provision in this section, any advance directive shall not apply to emergency treatment'. It is open to misuse," said Javed Abidi of the Disabled Rights Group. He claimed under the new bill, the role of the judiciary has been taken off and a psychiatrist can decide if a person can be put in a mental asylum. Under the present law, Mental Health Act (MHA) 1987, the judiciary has a major role in adjudicating admission to asylums.

The Times of India, October 10, 2012, P.7

Law panel wants anti-dowry law toned down

Nagendar Sharma

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NEW DELHI: The government's expert panel on legal issues has recommended a change in the criminal law to prevent the immediate arrest of husbands and their family members against whom police complaints are filed by their wives under the anti-dowry law.

The Law Commission of India, in its latest report, has asked the government to water the anti-dowry law down to allow a woman to withdraw her complaint if a compromise with her husband and his family is possible. The panel also wants to make it a compoundable offence but with a court's permission.

The Supreme court had asked the law commission to

give its findings on whether section 498A of the IPC and enabling laws, which deal with physical and mental cruelty by husbands and their relatives against wives over dowry, require amendments following reports of their misuse.

It has sought an amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in a bid to introduce a 30-day "reconciliation" period before police can arrest an accused under the anti-dowry law.

"The need for caution in exercising the drastic power of arrest in the context of cases under section 498A the IPC has been emphasised by courts and parliamentary committees time and again," states the report.

"We, therefore, suggest that a new clause may be added to the CrPC section 41 to make

clear that whenever a complaint of physical and mental cruelty is filed by a married woman, a police officer shall set in motion a process of reconciliation between the two parties before he or she resorts to the power of arrest," the commission recommended.

This 30-day period, however, will not apply if an investigating officer feels that "facts disclose an aggravated form of cruelty" and the arrest of an accused is necessary, it points out.

It has rejected the demands for either recommending a complete repeal of the anti-dowry law or making it a bailable offence. "Misuse by itself cannot be a ground to take away its teeth... We can't close our eyes to a large number of cases which go unprosecuted," the commission stated.

WHAT THE PANEL SUGGESTS

- Law commission has rejected demands to repeal the anti-dowry law citing its misuse
- It has also refused to recommend making it a bailable offence.
- The commission has recommended making it partially less stringent by allowing a woman to withdraw her complaint if a compromise with her husband and in-laws is possible, but with a court's permission.
- It has asked for an amendment to the criminal law to delay the arrest of accused by 30 days to allow reconciliation



"Misuse by itself cannot be a ground to take away its teeth... We can't close our eyes to a large number of cases which go unprosecuted," the law panel stated.

Hindustan Times, October 03, 2012, P.8

महिलाओं के अश्लील चित्रण पर कड़ी सजा

● प्रियंवदा सहाय

नई दिल्ली। उत्पाद बेचने के नाम पर टीवी, इंटरनेट या रेडियो जैसे किसी भी माध्यम पर महिलाओं को अश्लीलता से पेश करना अब काफी महंगा पड़ सकता है। महिलाओं के अश्लील चित्रण व वर्णन के सहारे दुकानें चलाने वालों पर लगाम कसने के लिए महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने महिलाओं को अश्लील तरीके पेश किए जाने पर निषेध संबंधी कानून में संशोधन का निर्णय लिया है। संशोधन के बाद महिलाओं को टीवी, प्रिंट, अडियो, इंटरनेट या एमएमएस के जरिए भी अश्लील तरीके से दिखाने पर भारी जुर्माने के साथ जेल की सजा भी काटनी पड़ सकती है।

इस प्रस्ताव पर बृहस्पतिवार को कैबिनेट की मुहर लग सकती है। संशोधन के मुताबिक कानून का उल्लंघन करने वालों को एक लाख रुपए का जुर्माना भरना होगा। वहीं

● टीवी-इंटरनेट कानून में बदलाव पर कैबिनेट की मुहर की तैयारी

तीन वर्ष की जेल भी हो सकती है। महिलाओं के चित्रण या वर्णन को अनुचित तरीके से पेश किए जाने संबंधी बिल को लंबे परामर्श के बाद संशोधन के लिए तैयार किया गया है। इसका मूल अधिनियम 1986 में प्रिंट मीडिया, विज्ञापन, प्रकाशन, लेख और चित्रण में महिलाओं को अभद्रता के साथ पेश किए जाने पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए तैयार किया गया था। इस कानून के पहली दफा उल्लंघन करने पर दो हजार के जुर्माने के साथ दो साल की सजा का प्रावधान है। जिसे अब बढ़ाकर 50 हजार जुर्माना और तीन साल की सजा का प्रावधान किया जाएगा।

Amar Ujala, October 11, 2012, P.13

कार्यस्थल पर यौन उत्पीड़न पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट फिर सख्त

नियामक संस्थाओं को समितियां गठित करने का निर्देश

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। उच्चतम न्यायालय ने 15 साल पुराने विवादास्पद प्रकरण में दो गई व्यवस्था का दोबारा बचाव हुए बार काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया और भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद जैसी सभी नियामक संस्थाओं को शुक्रवार को निर्देश दिया कि कार्यस्थल पर यौन उत्पीड़न के मामलों से निबटने के लिए वे अपने यहाँ समितियां गठित करें। न्यायपूति आरएम लोड़ा की अध्यक्षता वाली तीन सदस्यीय खंडपीठ ने मेधा कोतवाल लेले की याचिका पर अपने फैसले में नियामक संस्थाओं और उनसे संबद्ध सभी संस्थानों को 1997 में विवादास्पद प्रकरण में प्रतिपादित दिशा-निर्देश दो महीने के भीतर लागू करने का निर्देश दिया है। याचिका में विवादास्पद प्रकरण के दायरे में अन्य संस्थाओं को भी शामिल करने का अनुरोध किया गया था।

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने 1997 में सरकारी महकमों और स्वयंसेवक उपक्रमों में महिलाओं के यौन उत्पीड़न को घटाने से निबटने के लिए दिशा-निर्देश तैयार किए थे। इन दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार कार्यस्थलों और दूसरे संस्थाओं पर यौन उत्पीड़न को घटाने को रोकथाम करना और ऐसे विकारों के समाधान तथा कानूनी कार्यवाही के लिए सभी उचित कदम उठाना निरीक्षण एवं निरीक्षणों का कर्तव्य होगा।

दिशा-निर्देशों में यह भी कहा गया कि कार्यस्थल पर यौन उत्पीड़न निषेध करने के नियमों को अंगीकारित करने के साथ ही इनका प्रकाशन और वितरण भी किया जाना चाहिए। इसमें यौन उत्पीड़न करने वालों के खिलाफ दंड का भी प्रावधान होना चाहिए। इस नैतिक व्यवस्था के तहत निजी निरीक्षणों को भी आदेशों में यौन उत्पीड़न निषेध को शामिल करने का निर्देश दिया गया था। दिशा-निर्देशों में ऐसे मामलों को बीच के लिए विवादित समिति गठित करने को सिफारिश की गई थी।

ऐसी समितियों का अग्रगण्य किसी महिला को बनाने और समिति में काम से काम आधी संस्था महिला सदस्यों को रखने की भी सिफारिश की गई थी। नैतिक व्यवस्था में उच्च स्तर से किसी प्रकार के अनावश्यक प्रकाश को संभावना समाप्त करने के इरादे से समिति में तीसरे पक्ष के रूप में किसी भी सरकारी संघटन या यौन उत्पीड़न के मामलों से परिचित किसी अन्य संस्था को भी शामिल करने की सिफारिश की गई थी।



Rashtriya Sahara, October 20, 2012, P.1

SC Bar Assn Forms Panel to Probe Sexual Harassment

by Tanu Sharma

New Delhi: In a rather delayed move, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has set up a 'sexual harassment committee' as mandated by the landmark apex court ruling in Vishakha case in August 1997.

On August 13, 1997, the apex court had held that any form of sexual harassment violates women's fundamental right to work in a safe environment.

Now moving towards implementing the spirit of the said judgment, the Bar Association of the top court constituted a five-member committee to inquire into any complaints of sexual harassment faced by women lawyers on the premises of the Supreme Court.

The decision to constitute

COMPLAINT PANEL IS IN PLACE

A complaint committee mandated to deal with the complaints related to sexual harassment of women employed in the Supreme Court Registry is already in place and has five members with three members being women, as per the information on SC's website.

panel was taken during the SCBA meeting held on Tuesday. P H Parekh, president of SCBA confirmed it, saying, "A resolution in this regard has been passed."

Senior advocate Pinki Anand has been named as the chairperson of the committee with advocates K. Umud Lata Das, Meera Bhatia and Sharbani Chakravarty being members.

While the modalities will be worked out in due course of time, "the committee will keep the name and identity of the woman complainant confidential while having in-camera inquiries," Pinki said. The idea is to make all efforts to ensure that victims are not discriminated or victimised after filing a complaint with the committee.

According to her, the committee will act as an 'inquiry authority' on a complaint made to it for any allegation of sexual harassment on the premises of the apex court.

As per the mandate of the 1997 judgment, a committee headed by a woman and with a majority of women members had to be set up in every workplace to provide a complaint mechanism and a redressal for women employees.



Provide Toilets in Schools in Six Months: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre and State governments to provide basic infrastructure, including drinking water and toilets, in all schools within six months.

A bench headed by Justice K S Radhakrishnan fixed the time limit and asked the governments to take steps to provide the basic infrastructure in schools across the country. The bench said that all of its previous directions pertaining to providing infrastructure should be implemented within the time frame fixed by it. On October 18, 2011, the apex court had directed all States and Union Territories to build toilets, particularly for girls, in all government schools.

The court passed the order on a PIL seeking its direction to the Centre and State governments to provide basic facilities of drinking water

and toilets in schools.

The apex court had earlier stated that it was imperative that all schools provide toilet facilities, as empirical researches indicated that wherever toilet facilities are not provided in schools, parents do not send their children

RESEARCH FOUND THAT IF WASHROOMS ARE UNAVAILABLE IN SCHOOLS, PARENTS DO NOT TO SEND THEIR WARDS TO THE INSTITUTIONS

dren (particularly girls) to the institutions.

The court had also observed that not providing the infrastructure was in violation of the right to free and compulsory education of children guaranteed under Article 21A of the Constitution.

PTI

The New Indian Express, October 11, 2012, P.7

विज्ञापनों में अश्लील तरीके से नहीं दिखेंगी महिलाएं

कुणाल/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। यूपीए अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी के महिला सशक्तिकरण के वाक्य पर एक कदम और आगे बढ़ते हुए केंद्र का मनमोहन सरकार ने अब महिलाओं को उत्पाद के तौर पर पेश करनेवालों की खैर लेने की ठान ली है। महिलाओं को भेदे तरीके से पेश करनेवाले विज्ञापन भी विज्ञापन पर अब न केवल पंचार तंत्रा से लेकर पांच लाख रुपए तक का जुमाना लगाने की तैयारी है, बल्कि पांच वर्ष की केंद्र का भी प्रवचन किया जा रहा है।



सरकार ने किया महिलाओं के अश्लील प्रतिनिधित्व कानून 1986 में संशोधन का फैसला

बृहस्पतिवार को प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह को अध्यक्षता में होने वाली कैबिनेट की बैठक में सरकार ने महिलाओं के अश्लील प्रतिनिधित्व कानून 1986 में संशोधन करने का फैसला किया है। इसके तहत महिलाओं को अश्लील फोटो वाले विज्ञापन, पम्फलेट और होर्डिंग टांगने वाली की

खैर नहीं है। गौरतलब है कि कबार में अपने उत्पादों को आकर्षक बनाने के लिए कंपनियां जिस तरह से अपने विज्ञापनों में महिलाओं को अश्लील तरीके से पेश कर रही हैं उनके विरोध में कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी समेत अनेक महिला संगठनों ने कई बार आवाज उठाई है। आधुनिकता के इस

दौर में हर वस्तु बेचने के लिए मशीनों की सारी सीमाएं लांघकर उसमें महिलाओं को आकर्षक अश्लील तस्वीरें लगाना फैशन सा बन गया है।

अनुमान के मुताबिक अखबारों से लेकर होर्डिंग तक में 80 प्रतिशत से अधिक मामलों में महिलाओं को अश्लील मुद्रा में एक उत्पाद के तौर पर दिखाया जा रहा है। इससे न केवल समाज में विकृति पैदा हो रही है, बल्कि युवा पीढ़ी पर भी इस तरह के विज्ञापनों का दुष्प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। ऐसे मानसिकता को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने महिलाओं के अश्लील प्रतिनिधित्व कानून 1986 में संशोधन करने का निर्णय लिया है। संशोधन के मुताबिक 2000 रुपए के जुमाने को 50 हजार और पांच लाख रु और सजा को तीन साल से बढ़कर पांच साल करने का प्रस्ताव है। सरकार के इस फैसले से रोजाना अखबारों और विज्ञापनों में दिखाई जा रही है औरतों की आधी नंगी तस्वीरें गायब हो सकती हैं।

Rashtriya Sahara, October 11, 2012, P.1

The New Indian Express, Oct 05, 2012, P.1

Supreme Court orders States to check sexual exploitation of women at workplaces

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday made it mandatory for all the States, Union territories and the regulatory bodies to put in place a legal mechanism to implement the 'guidelines in Vishaka case' which require the employers at workplaces to observe them and ensure prevention of sexual harassment of women.

A three-judge Bench of Justices R.M. Lodha, Anil R. Dave and Ranjan Gogoi said: "The implementation of the guidelines in Vishaka has to be not only in form but also substance and spirit so as to make available safe and secure environment to wom-

• "No proper mechanism in place to address complaints of sexual harassment of women"

• "Existing laws, if necessary, should be revised and appropriate new laws be enacted"

en at the workplace in every aspect and thereby enabling the working women to work with dignity, decency and due respect."

Pointing out that a legislation in this regard was yet to be put in place, the Bench said: "There is still no proper mechanism in place to address the complaints of sexual harassment of the women lawyers in Bar Associations, lady doctors and nurses in the medical clinics and nursing homes, women

architects working in the offices of the engineers and architects and so on and so forth."

Writing the judgment in the petition filed by Medha Kotwal Lele seeking enforcement of Vishaka guidelines, Justice Lodha said: "While we have marched forward substantially in bringing gender parity in local self-governments, the representation of women in Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies is dismal as

the women represent only 10-11 per cent of the total seats. India ranks 129 out of 147 countries in United Nations Gender Equality Index.

"This is lower than all South Asian countries except Afghanistan. Our Constitution framers believed in fairness and justice for women. They provided in the Constitution the States' commitment of gender parity and gender equality and guarantee against sexual harassment to women."

The Bench said: "As the largest democracy in the world, we have to combat violence against women. We are of the considered view that the existing laws, if necessary, [should] be revised

and appropriate new laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures to protect women from any form of indecency, indignity and disrespect at all places [in their homes as well as outside], prevent all forms of violence — domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment at the workplace, etc; — and provide new initiatives for education and advancement of women and girls in all spheres of life. After all they have limitless potential. Lip service, hollow statements and inert and inadequate laws with sloppy enforcement are not enough for true and genuine uplift of our half most precious population — the women."

The Hindu, October 20, 2012, P.1

Bring in new laws to tackle sexual harassment: SC

Rakesh Bhatnagar • NEW DELHI

Exasperated at the unwillingness among various state governments and other statutory bodies in setting up requisite mechanism to deal with instances of sexual harassment of women at their work places, the Supreme Court on Friday urged the government to have the existing laws relating to women's interests revised and sharpened to mitigate the sexually harassed women's grievances against their bosses or colleagues.

Noting that several states haven't amended the service

rules or not put in the mechanism that was recommended in the famous Vishaka judgment some 15 years ago, the top court said, "we have to combat violence against women".

The existing laws enacted by parliament may be revised and "new laws be enacted" to protect women from "any form of indecency, indignity and disrespect at all places (in their homes as well as outside)".

Expanding the ambit of the Vishaka verdict on a writ petition by a Mumbai-based Medha Kotwal Lele saying there was



THE GUIDELINES

The apex court in 1997 had framed guidelines to handle cases of sexual harassment at the workplace

According to the guidelines, it was the duty of the employer or other responsible persons in work places and other institutions to prevent or deter the commission of acts of sexual harassment and to provide procedures for resolution

lack of enforcement of the landmark judgment, the apex court said the new laws must prevent all forms of violence

including domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment at the workplace and provide new initiatives for edu-

cation and advancement of women in all walks of life.

"Lip service, hollow statements and inert and inadequate laws with sloppy enforcement are not enough for true and genuine uplift of our half most precious population — the women", a bench of justices R.M. Lodha and Anil R. Dave observed.

The judges directed all the state functionaries and private and public sector undertakings, various organisations and statutory bodies or institutions to put in place sufficient mechanism to ensure full implementation of the Vishaka guidelines.

If the alleged harasser is found guilty, the complainant victim is not forced to work with or under such harasser and where appropriate and possible the alleged harasser should be transferred, the court added.

Provision should be made that harassment and intimidation of witnesses and the complainants shall be met with severe disciplinary action, judges said and directed the Bar Council of India to ensure that all bar associations in the country and persons (lawyers) registered with the state bar councils follow the Vishaka

guidelines.

Similarly, Medical Council of India, Council of Architecture, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Institute of Company Secretaries and other statutory institutes shall ensure that the organisations, bodies, associations, institutions and persons registered or affiliated with them follow the guidelines.

An analyst said all lawyers, doctors and other professionals are under statutory obligation to provide mechanism to check sexual harassment to their women colleagues.

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D.N.A., October 20, 2012, P.9

Excess fee plea: HC seeks edu dept reply

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Directorate of Education was on Wednesday directed by the Delhi high court to respond to a plea accusing a private school of charging "excess" fee from students with physical disabilities in comparison to general students.

A bench of Chief Justice D. Murugesan and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw also issued notice to the private school and sought its reply by November 21. The court was hearing a PIL filed by civil rights society Social Jurists through its counsel Ashok Agarwal alleging the school has been charging over 38% extra fee from students

with disabilities in comparison to the general ones. The petition sought court's directions to the school to stop charging higher fee from disabled students and refund the excess fee charged in past three years.

According to the plea, the school has nearly 80 students with disabilities and the fee being charged from them is even higher than the maximum fee charged by the school from Class XII general students. "A Class IV student with disabilities is charged tuition fee of Rs 44,640 and the general students of the same class is charged tuition fee of Rs 32,160 during 2012-2013 — 38% (Rs 12,480) higher in case of students with disabilities," the PIL claimed.

WCD proposes changes in act for indecent depiction

MUKESH RANJAN
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

In a bid to bring Internet and e-media under its purview, the ministry of women and child welfare has proposed changes in the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

The proposal to this effect on agenda of the meeting of the Union Cabinet, which will meet on Thursday.

Informing this, sources in the government said, since the existing law only takes care of indecent depiction of women in print medium, the government is likely to "bring in Internet and e-

media" under the purview of the Act by amending it. "Proposals are also there to upwardly revise the quantum of penalties to make them contemporary," they added.

Sources further informed that in case of violation against the Act, any member of the public or any organization, which is involved in activities related to development and welfare of women will have the right to file complaint with the police. "Following the complaint it would be incumbent on the police to expeditiously investigate the case and take necessary action to prosecute the person,

who is responsible for the contravention," they added.

Further revealing the proposed punishment and penalty under the Act, sources said, the provisions are progressive.

"In case of first offence, an offender would be liable for a fine up to ₹2,000, which may be ₹10,000 or jail term of six month or both. But the same can extend up to five years jail term or a fine of ₹1 lakh or both," they said. A proposal is also there to authorise the government to appoint a Central authority to govern and regulate the manner in which women are represented in any document.

The Times of India, Oct 18, 2012, P.6

The Asian Age, October 11, 2012, P.4

Toilets are main concern for girl students: CRY

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI: On a day when the Supreme Court directed the Union and State governments to provide basic infrastructure, including drinking water and toilets, in all schools within six months, a survey conducted among parents (low-income group) in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore said that "toilets remain the single-most commonly voiced concern for girl students and their parents across India among the lower-income group."

The secondary data of survey added that only 44 per

cent schools covered by the Right to Education Act have separate, functioning girls' toilets. In the rest, girls either need to risk embarrassment and run to nearby fields, or run back home to use the toilet.

"Chhattisgarh has only 20 per cent schools with usable girls toilets, while Jammu and Kashmir (22 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (23 per cent) fare only marginally better. The northeastern States, including Assam (27 per cent), have few schools that provide working toilets for girls," said the policy analysis report released by NGO

• Only 44% schools covered by Act have separate, functioning girls' toilets

• Sharp drop in secondary school attendance among girls requires immediate attention

Child Rights and You (CRY) here.

India has 8.3 crore girls in the age group of 11-18 and they constitute 17 per cent of the total female population of 49.65 crore. The country, however, clocks a female literacy rate of only 53.87 per cent.

Stating that while the proportion of girls (aged be-

tween 11 and 14) who are still out of school declined from 6.8 per cent (2009) to 5.9 in 2010, the survey notes that the percentage of out-of-school girls (11-14 years) is still high in some States, including Rajasthan (12.1) and Uttar Pradesh (9.7), where the proportion has remained largely unchanged since last year.

"The situation is alarming when it comes to secondary education. The sharp drop in attendance among girls poses a big challenge and requires immediate attention. There are several reasons why children drop out of school and they are not necessarily the same or even if they are the same, they are of varying degrees for girls and boys," says the survey.

Also early marriage, distance to schools and lack of transport, their having to do household chores and take care of siblings, lack of separate toilets for girls, unavailability of female teachers and

lack of safety were found to be some of the important reasons why girls drop out of school.

"About one-third of girls drop out for all the above reasons put together. The survey also highlighted that while respondents want their girl-children to be in school and receive education, several of them noted that the present transport system was not safe for the girlchild, girls get abused in school as well as on the way to school, separate toilets are vital for education of girlchild and almost all respondents noted that they wanted schools to have sep-

arate toilet for girls," said CRY's Volunteer Action director Yogita Verma speaking about the main survey titled 'A rapid assessment of knowledge, attitude and practise (KAP) on prevalence of barriers to girl child education among lower income groups of society.'

In the survey, one in four respondents felt that an individual below 18 years is necessarily not a child while some noted that individuals should not be considered as a child if the individual is tall, can take of children, do household chores, cook food and work and earn.

The Hindu, October 04, 2012, P.13

RTE Act: Army opposes reservation in its schools

press trust of india

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, 7 OCT: The Army is opposing the implementation of 25 per cent reservation for children of weaker and disadvantaged groups in its approximately 150 schools under the Right to Education Act, saying it will hamper the educational prospects of the wards of its own personnel.

A letter in this regard has been sent to the Defence Ministry by the Army Headquarters, Army sources told *PIT* here. The 1.3 million-strong force runs around 150 schools across the cantonments in the country.

The stand in this regard was taken some time ago and the government has been apprised about the reasons behind it, they said.

This position has been taken in view of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 which makes it compulsory for every private unaided school to admit at least 25 per cent in its entry level-class children belonging to weaker and disadvantaged groups.



Explaining the reasons for opposing the provision of reservation, an Army source said this would deprive "our own wards of quality education in our schools".

"Already, there is a lot of pressure on our schools and giving away 25 per cent of seats to civilian children will deprive an equal number of wards of Army personnel of good education," the source said.

Under a Supreme Court ruling, Army personnel are deemed to be a disadvantaged with regard to educa-

tion of their children, the source said.

Lack of proper educational facilities for their children is considered to be one of the main reasons behind the increasing stress levels among Army personnel, they said.

In view of these considerations, a parliamentary standing committee has recommended the opening of additional schools for wards of Army personnel as due to their frequent postings, each child generally has school education in five or six institutions.

The Army runs these schools from its own welfare funds and doesn't use any kind of public money for doing so, the source said.

The force is subsidising the education in these schools from its own welfare funds and they are run on a no-profit no-loss basis.

On the issue of using Defence Ministry land for building these schools, the sources said the provision of schools on these plots is as per the Key Location Plan or the Army Modernisation Works Plan.

The Statesman, October 08, 2012, P.1

Child witness cannot be rejected outright, says HC

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NEW DELHI: The evidence of a child witness cannot be rejected outright, the Delhi High Court has ruled while upholding the life sentence awarded to a man for kidnapping and then raping a minor girl three years ago.

A bench of justice Sanjiv Khanna and justice SP Garg gave the ruling, dismissing Shalimar Bagh resident Amrit Sharma alias Amit's appeal against his conviction and sentence of life imprisonment, awarded by the trial court on September 27, 2010 on basis of the testimonies of the victim and her friend.

"The law on the issue is that the evidence of a child witness cannot be rejected outright. It must be evaluated more carefully and with greater circumspection because a child is sus-

ceptible to be swayed by others and can be tutored.

"Small children can make false identification not because they want to depose and state false facts, but because they may not be guided and be fully aware and conscious of the adverse consequence and the effect of making false positive identification," the court said in a recent judgement.

The bench accepted the statements of victim, a 4-year-old girl at the time of incident in April 2009, and also her friend, who is also in the same age group, that the accused had offered them biscuit and ₹10 to go with him.

The court also accepted the statement of the victim's friend that she had declined the offer of the accused, but had witnessed that the victim was taken away by him to a nearby forested area.

"In the absence of any contrary evidence, we cannot assume that testimonies of PW-6 (victim) and PW-11 (victim's friend) should not be considered simply because they were child witnesses. There is nothing on record to show that both of them were not capable to reveal the incident and identify the accused," the bench said.

"...Moreover, it was the perception of the child witnesses as to how they connected the culprit as he was not known to them by name. There was no hesitation for both of them to recognise and identify him in the court. The accused was arrested on the identification of the prosecutrix," the court said and rejected the argument of the accused that he was framed in the case as the victim's mother wanted to extort money from him.

Hindustan Times, October 23, 2012, P.5

'RTE does not allow home schooling'

Abhinav Garg / TNW

New Delhi: In an important reversal of stand, the Centre has admitted that the Right to Education Act doesn't allow home schooling.

Admitting that the earlier stand was incorrect, the Centre last week urged Delhi high court to permit it to file a fresh affidavit clarifying its stand in respect of home schooling vis-à-vis the RTE Act.

The U-turn by the Centre came on a petition filed by a student who argued that individuals had the right to choose their mode of education. The petition, filed by one Shreya Sahal through her mother, contended that RTE does not cater to gifted or talented children who leave the schooling system, or those in alternative schools

and this anomaly must be addressed.

In response, the Centre had claimed by way of an affidavit submitted in July this year that RTE equates schooling with education and said those who opt for home-schooling are free to do so. The RTE Act, which came

GOVT CHANGES STAND BEFORE HC

into effect on April 1, 2010, makes it mandatory for every child (from six to 14 years old) to be enrolled in a formal school.

Intervening in the adjudication of the petition, Social Jurist advocate Ashok Agarwal had strongly objected to the Centre's stand and argued that the demand on the part of Sahal for

home-schooling/ alternative forms of schooling and the stand taken by the Centre in support of such a demand is based on a completely casual and erroneous interpretation of the letter, spirit and intent of the RTE Act. Agarwal contended this might lead to dismantling and weakening of the RTE Act.

In the latest hearing, the court gave time to the Centre to file a new affidavit. Earlier, the Centre had also said that National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for children in the age group of 6-14 years will only be allowed to run up to 2015. "Parents who voluntarily opt for alternative forms of schooling may continue to do so. The RTE Act does not come in the way of such alternate schooling methodologies or declare such form of education illegal," it had stated.

The Times of India, October 23, 2012, P.5

Child witnesses shouldn't be dismissed: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The evidence of a child witness shouldn't be rejected outrightly by courts, the Delhi high court has cautioned, while awarding life sentence to a man for kidnapping and then raping a minor girl three years ago.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and SP Garg dismissed Shalimar Bagh resident Amrit Sharma alias Amit's appeal against his conviction and sentence of life imprisonment, awarded by the trial court on Sep-

cause they want to depose and state false facts but because they may not be guided and be fully aware and conscious of the adverse consequence and the effect of making false positive identification."

HC accepted the statements of victim, a 4-year-old girl at the time of incident in April 2009, and also her friend, who is also of same age group, that the accused had offered them biscuit and Rs 10 to go with him. While the victim's friend declined the offer of the accused she saw the victim being taken away by him to a nearby forest.

"In the absence of any contrary evidence, we cannot assume that testimonies of the victim and her friend should not be considered simply because they are child witnesses. There is nothing on record to show that both of them were not capable to reveal the incident and identify the accused," the court concluded.

Dismissing the argument of the accused that the victim's mother is trying to frame him to extort money the court emphasized that "It was the perception of the child witnesses as to how they connected the culprit as he was not known to them by name. There was no hesitation in both of them to recognize and identify him in the court. The accused was arrested on the identification of the prosecutor."

"Small children can make false identification not because they want to depose and state false facts but because they may not be guided and be fully aware of the adverse consequences," the bench said

tember 27, 2010 on basis of the testimonies of the victim and her friend.

"The law on the issue is that the evidence of a child witness cannot be rejected outrightly. It must be evaluated more carefully and with greater circumspection because a child is susceptible to be swayed by others and can be tutored," the bench noted, saying that "Small children can make false identification not be-

The Times of India, Oct 23, 2012, P.3

Don't let off rapists on flimsy grounds, SC tells courts

Reverses Acquittal By Allahabad HC, Gives Offender Life Term

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Expressing concern at the "devastating increase" in rape cases and offences against women, the Supreme Court on Friday told trial courts and high courts not to acquit offenders because of mere technical discrepancies in the evidence.

The judgment came from a bench of Justices P Sathasivam and Ranjan Gogoi, which allowed an appeal by the Uttar Pradesh government challenging an Allahabad high court decision to acquit a person who was awarded death penalty by a trial court which found him guilty of rape and murder of a minor girl.

The SC set aside the HC's acquittal order and imposed life sentence. Justice Sathasivam, writing the judgment for the bench, said, "The primary concern both at national and international level is

Centre asks Haryana to set up women's cell

Concerned over a spurt in rapes and other crimes against women in Haryana, the Centre has asked the state government to set up women's cells in every district for registering complaints and start anti-stalking helplines. In a communication, the home ministry asked the BS Hooda government to give top priority to distress calls from women and investigate all crimes against them after promptly registering FIRs. A home ministry official said the state government has been asked to give direction to all superintendents of police to report to the state police chief every day if there is any crime against a woman in their area of jurisdiction, send an action taken report and depute women police personnel for receiving complaints. TNN

about the devastating increase in rape cases and cases relating to crimes against women. India is no exception to it."

He said the legislature has expressed its intent to deal with crimes against women and sexual assaults sternly by providing for stringent punishment but it was for the courts to ultimately decide on such incidents, weigh evidence before fastening guilt

on the accused.

"The courts should be more cautious in appreciating the evidence and the accused should not be left scot free merely on flimsy grounds. In the instant case, the accused had committed rape, which rebels against moral conscience as he chose a girl of 11 years to satisfy his lust and subsequently murdered her," the bench said.

Accepting arguments of

senior advocate Ratnakar Dash who said the HC had brushed aside the eye-witness account without giving a cogent reason, the bench said the high court, unfortunately, had rejected the evidence on flimsy grounds.

It said, "The analysis and the ultimate conclusion of the HC is contrary to the acceptable and reliable material placed by the prosecution and we hold that the accused has first committed the offence of rape and then murdered the victim.

"We are satisfied that the prosecution has established both the charges under Section 376 (rape) and 302 (murder) of Indian Penal Code. In view of the same, we set aside the conclusion arrived at by the HC. Taking note of the fact that the incident occurred in the year 2002, we feel that rigorous imprisonment for life would meet the ends of justice."

The Times of India, October 14, 2012, P.17

रेप के अभियुक्तों को सतही आधार पर न किया जाए बरी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा है कि दुनिया भर में बलात्कार और महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराधों में बढ़ोतरी हो रही है। बलात्कार के मामलों में अदालतों को चौकस रहने की जरूरत है। अदालतें सबूतों को बारीकी से पढ़ें और सही आधार पर अभियुक्तों को बरी न करें। कानून में बलात्कारियों को सख्त सजा का प्रावधान है लेकिन अदालतों को ही अंततः अपराधी को सजा तय करनी है।

इलाहाबाद हाई कोर्ट ने ट्रायल कोर्ट के फैसले के आठ माह के बाद मुजरिम मुनेश को बरी कर दिया। हाई कोर्ट के रविवार पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने तात्तुब बन्त किया।



► हत्या और बलात्कार के मुजरिम को उच्च न्यायालय को बरी करने पर इलाहाबाद हाई कोर्ट को तलाश

बेंच ने कहा कि हाई कोर्ट ने गवाहों द्वारा पुलिस और अदालत में दिए गए बयान में असर डाल कर अपराधी को बरी कर दिया जबकि बयानों में फर्क बहुत मामूली था। अदालतों को यह सम्झना चाहिए कि हत्या और बलात्कार के इस मामले में दो चरमपंथी पक्ष हैं। गॉव के

दो व्यक्ति बच्चों को पीछा सुनकर गैहूँ के खेत पर पहुंचे थे। इन दोनों ने मुनेश का पीछा भी किया लेकिन वह भगने में समल हो गया। बदला के दस दिन बाद उसे 14 मार्च, 2002 को गिरफ्तार किया जा सका। कबिल भी उसी गॉव का रहने वाला था। हाई कोर्ट ने वॉर्य परीक्षण की रिपोर्टें न आने तथा पुलिस द्वारा हत्या में इस्तेमाल हुए दूध बरामद न करने पर अभियुक्त को बरी कर दिया था।

अदालत ने कहा कि तमिल में इस तरह की कमी से अभियोजन का पक्ष कमजोर नहीं होता। हाई कोर्ट ने एकजुटिअर दर्ज करने में देरी का साथ भी अभियुक्त को दिया। चरमपंथी गवाहों द्वारा मुक के पिता को वादत की जानकारी देने का कि एकजुटिअर में न होने के बचाव पक्ष के तर्क पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि एकजुटिअर या प्राथमिकी विध्वकोष (एसआईकॉपीडिया) नहीं होती।

Rashtriya Sahara, October 13, 2012, P.11

महिला को अश्लील मैसेज भेजने पर होगी 3 साल की जेल

नयी दिल्ली, 10 अक्टूबर (भाषा)। किसी महिला को अश्लील मस्वीमीडिया मैसेज या ईमेल भेजने पर आपको तीन साल की जेल हो सकती है। प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह की अध्यक्षता में आज हुई कैबिनेट की बैठक में महिलाओं को अश्लील डंग से रोकने के कानून में संशोधन का प्रस्ताव मंजूर किया गया। इसमें प्रस्ताव है कि ऐसी हरकतों में लिख लोपों के दोषी पाए जाने पर सजा सजा तक को कैद के साथ उनपर भारी जुर्माना लगाया जाए। सरकारी बयान के मुताबिक दूर्य ऋष्य मीडिया और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक जॉिए से भेजी जाने वाली सामग्री को फंकर करने के लिए कानून के दापर को व्यापक बनाने के उद्देश्य से संशोधन किए गए हैं। संशोधन के तहत महिलाओं को अश्लील डंग से रोकने या उन्हें अश्लील मस्वीमीडिया मैसेज या ईमेल भेजने की हरकतों में लिख पाए जाने वाले व्यक्ति के पहली दफ दोषी पाए जाने पर जुर्माने की राशि 2000 रूपए से बढ़ाकर कम से कम 50 हजार रूपए की गई है, जबकि ये राशि अधिकतम एक लाख रूपए होगी। साथ ही तीन साल की सजा का प्रावधान होगा।

Dainik Tribune, Oct 12, 2012, P.1

SC 6-month deadline for school facilities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday fixed a six-month deadline for all schools in the country, private and Government, minority as well as non-minority to provide mandatory potable drinking water, toilets, basic infrastructure including appointment of teachers.

A bench of Justices KS Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra passed the order while disposing a PIL filed by NGO Environment and Consumer Protection Foundation, which brought to focus the pitiable conditions of Government schools in Delhi. The court had expanded the scope of the petition by directing mandatory requirement of potable drinking water, toilets and filling up of vacant teacher posts on a priority basis.

In its order, the court reiterated the order of October 18,

2011 when it had directed all States and Union Territories to build toilets, particularly for girls, across all Government schools. The court felt that due to lack of toilets in schools, many parents in rural areas did not send their girls to school, thereby depriving them of their right to education.

With regard to drinking water, the court felt the right was integral to Article 20 and 21 (right to life) and schools could not deprive students of their right to drinking water. The court was pained to note that in Andhra Pradesh there were 9,280 schools yet to receive drinking water, followed by 7,000-odd schools in Assam, 6,000-odd schools in Uttar Pradesh, 2,963 schools in Karnataka, 77 schools in Kerala, 33 schools in Haryana, and the entire district of Darjeeling in West Bengal and certain parts of Jammu and Kashmir.



The court emphasised that the right to water was integral to Article 20 and 21

Schools must construct toilets in 6 months: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre and state governments to provide basic infrastructure, including drinking water and toilets, in all schools within six months.

A bench headed by justice KS Radhakrishnan fixed the time limit and asked the governments to take steps to provide the basic facilities in schools across the country.

The Bench said that all its previous directions pertaining to providing infrastructure should be implemented within the time frame fixed by it.

On October 18 last year, the apex court had directed states and Union territories to build toilets, particularly for girls, in all government schools.

The court passed the order on a PIL seeking its direction to Centre and state governments to provide basic facilities of drinking water and toilets in schools.

The apex court had earlier stated that it was imperative that all schools provide toilet facilities, as empirical researches indicated that wherever toilet facilities are not provided in schools, parents do not send their children (particularly girls) to schools.

The court had also observed that not providing the infrastructure was a violation of the right to free and compulsory education of children guaranteed under Article 21-A of the Constitution.

PTI

The Pioneer, October 04, 2012, P.5

Deccan Herald, Oct 04, 2012, P.1

Law Commission of India proposes toning down anti-dowry legislation

Will safeguard against misuse

The Law Commission of India's recommendation that the anti-dowry law be suitably amended to dilute the provision of immediate arrest of the accused is sensible. The suggestion comes in light of the fact that an increasing number of dowry complaints have been found to be false. That Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code - dealing with physical and mental cruelty by husbands and their relatives over dowry - empowers the complainant to have the accused arrested even before a proper investigation into the case only incentivises misuse of the law. Not only does this amount to gross injustice but also significantly damages to the anti-dowry movement.

It's arguable that tough anti-dowry legislations are a product of the 1980s, where they arose out of a specific context: a seemingly uncontrollable spate of dowry deaths in the country. However, the socio-economic conditions of women today have significantly changed. This empowerment is precisely why the anti-dowry law needs to be suitably updated. Besides, the

provision of immediate arrest flies in the face of Indian jurisprudence that treats every accused as innocent until proven guilty. Subverting this principle has done more harm than good.

In this respect, the

■ TIMES VIEW ■

law panel's proposal to introduce a 30-day reconciliation period before the police arrest an accused under the anti-dowry law makes eminent sense. To prevent misuse, the law should also be amended to allow for arrests only after a proper investigation, not before. The Supreme Court has already described false dowry cases as legal terrorism. Using the anti-dowry law as a tool for extortion is tantamount to human rights violation. Hence, in the interest of justice, diluting draconian provisions of the anti-dowry law without taking away the essence of the legislation is a step in the right direction.



A change for the worse

The expert panel's recommendation on amending and toning down the anti-dowry law is a classic example of missing the wood for the trees. As matters stand, is the anti-dowry law mis-

■ COUNTERVIEW ■

Anil Thakkar

used on occasion? Yes, it is - just like every other law. That is the nature of the beast; there will always be people who find and exploit loopholes in any system of rules. This is particularly true in India where the judicial system is hopelessly clogged and the police prone to corruption. These things will not change if the law is watered down. All that will happen is that the fight against dowry - a far more insidious and widespread evil than misuse of the anti-dowry law - will be compromised.

A simple look at the statistics will show how far we still have to go in stamping out

the system of dowry and the subjugation of - and violence against - women it engenders. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 6,995 dowry deaths were reported in 2000 - which climbed to 8,093 in 2007 and 8,381 in 2010. And that is just the reported cases; it is a safe assumption that the actual number of dowry deaths is significantly higher. This more than half-a-century after dowry was made illegal. What possible sense does it make to defang the anti-dowry law at a time when dowry deaths are actually on the rise?

On the face of it, certainly the amended changes seem sensible. But given how rigidly patriarchal much of Indian society is - particularly in rural areas where the dowry system is even harder to uproot - all they will do is leave the perpetrators at large and give them enough time to pressure or coerce the woman and her family into withdrawing their complaint. And that would be a far greater injustice than anything that is currently done under the aegis of the anti-dowry law.

The Times of India, October 04, 2012, P.18

Guidelines to safeguard students admitted under RTE

Centre tells states to curb bias against poor children

NEW DELHI: With reports about children admitted under Right to Education Act from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups facing discrimination in many schools doing the rounds, the Centre has sought the school authorities to prohibit any such act on their campuses.

"The school shall prohibit all persons and authorities of the school from harassing or victimising any child belonging to the weaker section and disad-

vantaged group," the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry said.

The ministry issued a set of mandatory guidelines for schools to prevent discrimination against such children. It has also asked state governments to take appropriate steps to ensure that schools adhere to the guidelines issued by it and no child coming from weaker sections or disadvantaged groups are discriminated.

According to the guidelines,

the discrimination will constitute announcing, verbally or otherwise, in the class, the names of the community or castes or tribes of the students; labelling such students as reserved category in the class.

Passing derogatory remarks against such children, indicating social, economic or other background as a reason of their under-performance in the class will also constitute as discrimination under the Act.

The guidelines also clarify that no school or its authority will allot "differential time" to students belonging to weaker section or disadvantaged groups to meet teacher. These

children must not be treated separately in utilising the sports and other facilities.

The schools should ensure that no such child is discriminated against by segregating him or her from others in playground or canteen or any provisions like midday meal or amenities like toilets and drinking water facilities provided to students. As per the guidelines, the schools will have to ensure that regular activities of such children are not disrupted or disturbed by any of its decision. These children should not experience financial extortion or forceful expenditure.

All such children must be al-

lowed to participate in cultural programmes, sports events, and other activities organised by the school, it says.

The HRD guidelines also clearly say that no school will discriminate against any child belonging to weaker section or disadvantaged group in admission either by a breach of the policy of reservation in admissions as may be applicable or in the way in which an application is processed.

No children should be treated unfavourably "in any way" in connection with his or her enrolment to a specific standard of class or area of study, training or instruction. The

school will make public all the measures taken by it for elimination of discrimination and harassment of children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group.

They will also have to prescribe the procedures and mechanism to deal with and decide on any complaint made by any child belonging to the weaker sections or the disadvantaged group. It will be obligatory on the part of the school to decide on such complaints within a maximum period of 60 days from the date of receipt or submission of such complaint," the HRD Ministry guidelines said.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, October 27, 2012, P.8

Govt moves to shield RTE quota students from bias

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In July, the authorities in a Bangalore private school cut off tufts of hair of four students who had been admitted under the Right to Education quota. Dalit students studying in a government school in Madhya Pradesh's Harda district have complained that they are being fed leftover food from the midday meals instead of fresh food given to the other students.

A mounting number of such incidents in schools regarding discrimination against students admitted under the RTE have prompted the Centre to lay down stringent guidelines asking the states to take corrective measures and set up redressal mechanisms.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has asked states to establish systems by which complaints regarding discrimination are dealt



within 60 days.

Schools cannot discriminate against a child belonging to a weaker section or a disadvantaged group by denying or limiting access to any benefit given to students, treating a student unfavourably in connection with her/his area of study, training or instruction, according to the guidelines issued on Friday.

The ambit of discrimination has also been widened to include announcing verbally or otherwise the names of a community, caste or tribe of a stu-

dent, labeling such students as reserved category, passing derogatory remarks indicating social, economic or other background as a reason for under-performance in class, allotting differential time to such students to meet the teacher and treating them separately in utilizing sports and other facilities.

The RTE guidelines stipulate that school should ensure that no child belonging to weaker section or disadvantaged group is discriminated against by segregating her/him from others in playground or canteen or any provision of mid-day meal, toilet, drinking water and other facilities.

The schools have also been asked to ensure that regular activities of the students are not disrupted or disturbed and children do not experience any financial extortion or forceful expenditure.

The guidelines stipulate that all children must also be allowed to participate in cultural programmes, sports events and other extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

The Times of India, October 27, 2012, P.14

CURBING UNFAIR PRACTICES

Soon, Legislation to Rein in Schools

by S Mannar Mannan

Coimbatore: Even as the Centre is grappling with passing the Unfair Practices in Higher Educational Institutions Bill, it has come up with a proposal to enact similar legislation to rein in schools in the country.

The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has framed the Draft Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Schools, 2012 Bill, to prohibit unfair practices in schools. The draft bill, a copy of which is available in public domain, prohibits accepting admission fee and other

fees without receipt and in advance. "Schools should not charge fee for information brochure, prospectus, admission form or test and should place all information on its website or notice board," it says.

Quite controversially, the draft bill also suggests that admissions could be made for classes VI, IX and XI through a competitive admission test or inter-se merit. Academics fear that this could impose additional burden of an entrance examination on students.

However, the draft bill seeks to streamline the ad-

mission process by mandating schools to publicly notify their fees, deposits, other charges, number of seats in each class, eligibility conditions, process of admission and details of teachers, 60 days before the commencement of admissions.

The bill prohibits schools from demanding capitation fee or donation directly or indirectly.

"Schools should not deny admission or expel a student if reported to have any serious disease, should not insist for private coaching, purchase of books, uniform,

stationery from school premises or particular shop. Schools should not indulge in any kind of corporal punishment, withhold students to appear in any examination, expel on account of poor academic performance," the draft says.

Schools also cannot refuse to return or withhold fees or certificates of students. Publishing misleading advertisements would also attract punishment. It is expected that the Bill may be tabled in the Winter session of Parliament, if it is cleared by the CABE at its 60th meeting on November 1.

The New Indian Express, October 29, 2012, P.1

'Corporal punishment could land teachers 3 years in jail'

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 – Resorting to corporal punishment in class or forcing students to purchase books, uniforms and other stationery from a particular shop could land one up to three years in jail, according to a draft Bill on curbing unfair practices in schools.

The draft 'Prohibition Of Unfair Practices in Schools Bill', 2012 makes it clear that no school shall directly or indirectly demand or accept capitation fee or demand any donation for admission to any class.

The draft legislation, which would be presented before the Central Advisory Board of Ed-

ucation (CABE) meeting here on November 1, also prohibits schools from denying admission or expelling any student if he/she is reported to have any serious diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Schools can neither indulge in any kind of corporal punishment or withhold students to appear in any examination for which they are eligible and desirous of appearing.

Besides schools cannot expel any student due to poor academic performance or detain them arbitrarily, the draft says.

The proposed legislation comes as complaints were mounting against the unfair

practices of schools.

Though the draft Bill has remained silent on the quantum of monetary penalty to be imposed, it states that the imprisonment could extend to three years or fines or both.

It said school shall not charge any fee for information brochure, prospectus, admission form or an admission test and provide all such information on its website or notice board. Fee collection during mid-session has also come under the scanner.

The provisions of the draft Bill states that any capitation fee or donations collected in contravention of the provi-

sions would be confiscated by an order of appropriate government 'state school education tribunal' or 'national school education tribunal' or a state or national body.

According to the draft Bill, no school shall insist for private coaching in the school or outside after the school hours. They also cannot insist for purchase of books, uniform or any other related materials from the school premises or a particular shop.

Schools would be penalised for providing false or misleading advertisement. The Bill also recommends admission to VI, IX and XI standards through tests. – PTI

The Assam Tribune, October 29, 2012, P.10

HC: Divorced dad can e-chat with kids

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 24

In a path-breaking judgment, the Bombay high court has allowed divorced fathers to be in touch with their children electronically, over the telephone, email, electronic chats and so on. The order overruled a previous order by a Pune court which had said electronic contact between father and child was similar to meeting physically.

However, the order imposes the condition that the father and child will have to interact via video-conferencing in the presence of a court official and establish a good rapport; only then will permission for electronic contact be granted.

The HC ruled in the favour of electronic communication on the grounds that even though the father may not be living in the same locality as the mother

and child, he has the right to know about the child's growth and progress at all times.

On March 27, the Pune family court had rejected the plea of a father, Gary Sewell, to have access to his child through electronic media as he lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, while his child lived with the mother in Mumbai since the couple separated in 2008. Mr Sewell had said he had been paying regular

maintenance for his child and former wife.

Justice Roshan Dalvi of the HC said, "The father is certainly entitled to have access to his child, if not physically, at least electronically, as he lives in Jeddah and the child in Mumbai."

The judge also directed the mother to provide all reports and school certificates to the father within a week as he had a right to know about the child's

progress in school. The court, however, rejected the father's plea that the child's grandmother and his power of attorney may also be allowed to establish communication with the child as it was not the legal right of the grandmother. The court also directed the mother to get the child to the district court in Pune for video-conferencing and asked her to leave the room for one hour, when the conference was underway.

The Pioneer, October 25, 2012, P.1

NHRC still awaiting States' report on pre-natal sex selection

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Recognising pre-natal sex selection as an unacceptable form of gender discrimination, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had asked key States across the country to submit a report on implementation of the Pre-conception & Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques (PCPNDT) Regulations and Prevention of Misuse Act (Amendments in 2004) based on a set of recommendations issued by the NHRC. A reporting format was also sent to all stakeholders.

But over a year after the exercise was undertaken, the NHRC has now been forced to issue reminders stating that "required information and action taken information is still awaited from various States and Union

Territories".

The NHRC had undertaken a research project titled "Research and Review to strengthen PCPNDT (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act's implementation across key States". The main objective of the study was to identify impediments in implementation of the Act in the States. The Commission had considered the report and directed that the report be sent to Central/State governments for action on its recommendations.

An NHRC letter dated September 14, 2011, noted that it had sent a copy of the national report to State governments for taking necessary action and keeping the Commission informed. "We have not received any response from the States and have now issued instructions so that the action taken re-

port on the recommendations contained in the national report in the specified format in consolidated form for the entire State/ Union Territories is sent to NHRC at the earliest," noted an NHRC letter dated October 9.

The highlights of the recommendation include ensuring effective implementation of the Act related activities, organising workshops/meetings for proper record maintenance of clinics and courts, encouraging authorities to undertake decoy operations and train them to execute the operations, creating special cell consisting of magistrate and lawyers who are well conversant with the Act and looking into bringing in harsher penalties as deterrent punishment commensurate with the nature of the crime.

The Hindu, October 25, 2012, P.9

तलाकशुदा डैड कर सकते हैं बच्चों से संपर्क

मुंबई हाईकोर्ट ने दी व्यवस्था, ई-मेल, चैटिंग और फोन बन सकता है जरिया

मुंबई (एजेंसी)। बंबई हाईकोर्ट ने व्यवस्था दी है कि एक तलाकशुदा पिता अगर अपने बच्चे से आमने-सामने मुलाकात न कर पाए तो वह कम से कम ईमेल, चैटिंग, टेलीफोन या अन्य किसी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया के जरिये उससे संपर्क कर सकता है।

हाईकोर्ट के न्यायमूर्ति रोशन दलवी ने इस साल 27 मार्च को दिए गए पुणे की परिवार अदालत के एक फैसले को रद्द भी कर दिया। इसमें गैरी सेवेल नाम के पिता के उस आग्रह को खारिज कर दिया गया था जिसमें इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया के जरिए अपने बच्चे से संपर्क की अनुमति मांगी गई थी। याचिका में सेवेल ने कहा था कि वह सऊदी अरब के जेददा में रहता है और मुंबई में अपनी मां के साथ रह रहे अपने बच्चे से उसकी बात तक नहीं हुई है। सेवेल का उसकी पत्नी से 2008 में तलाक हुआ था और तब से ही बच्चा मां के साथ है। सेवेल के अनुसार, वह अपनी पत्नी और बच्चे को नियमित गुजारा भत्ता देता रहा है।

न्यायमूर्ति दलवी ने कहा कि 'पिता निश्चित रूप से बच्चे से संपर्क करने का हकदार है, अगर

अदालत ने कहा



- ▶ पिता पहले वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए अदालत के एक अधिकारी की निगरानी में बच्चे से संपर्क करेगा
- ▶ पिता को स्कूल में बच्चे की प्रगति के बारे में जानने का हक है
- ▶ बच्चे की मां को आदेश दिया कि वह एक सप्ताह के अंदर बच्चे की सभी रिपोर्ट्स और स्कूल के प्रमाणपत्र उसके पिता को मुहैया कराए

आमने सामने मुलाकात न हो तो कम से कम वह इलेक्ट्रॉनिक माध्यम से संपर्क कर सकता है, क्योंकि वह जेददा में है और बच्चा मुंबई में रहता है।' अदालत ने यह भी व्यवस्था दी कि पिता पहले वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए अदालत के एक अधिकारी की निगरानी में बच्चे से संपर्क करेगा। इसके माध्यम से जब उनके बीच अच्छा तालमेल बन जाएगा तब वह ई-मेल, चैटिंग, टेलीफोन या अन्य इलेक्ट्रॉनिक माध्यम के जरिये संपर्क कर सकते हैं। अदालत ने कहा कि पिता को स्कूल में बच्चे की प्रगति के बारे में जानने का हक है। न्यायाधीश ने बच्चे की मां को आदेश दिया कि वह एक सप्ताह के अंदर बच्चे की सभी रिपोर्ट्स और स्कूल के प्रमाणपत्र उसके पिता को मुहैया कराए। व्यवस्था में कहा गया कि सभी रिपोर्ट्स की प्रतियां अदालत में दाखिल की जाएं और एक एक प्रति बच्चे के पिता को दी जाएं। कोर्ट ने पिता और बच्चे के बीच पहले और तीसरे शनिवार को शाम चार बजे से पांच बजे के दौरान वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस की व्यवस्था करने का आदेश दिया। न्यायाधीश ने मां से कहा कि

Rashtriya Sahara, October 25, 2012, P.1

मुजरिम को दिया जा सकता है किशोरावस्था का लाभ

विवेक वाघ्मोय/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट, 2000 का लाभ तीन चरणों वाले क्रिमिनल जस्टिस सिस्टम के किसी भी पड़ाव पर लिया जा सकता है। यदि विशेष अनुमति याचिका के जरिए अभियुक्त ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिका दायर की है तो यहां भी अपराध के समय अपनी उम्र 18 साल से कम होने का प्रमाण देकर जेल की सजा से बच सकता है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट को लीन सदस्यीय बेंच ने जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट के तहत 18 साल की उम्र से कम के अभियुक्तों को इस कल्याणकारी कानून के प्रावधानों के लाभ को लेकर चले आ रहे भ्रम को स्पष्ट किया। दो सदस्यीय बेंच ने एक रेफरेंस के तहत इस पेचीदा मसले पर स्थिति स्पष्ट करने के लिए कहा था। जस्टिस आरएम लोधा, तीर्थ सिंह टाकुर और अजित आर दवे की बेंच ने कहा कि जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट के तहत 2007 में नियमावली जारी की गई। संसद का मकसद उन बच्चों को जेल की सलाखों से दूर रखना है जो किसी न किसी कारण से अपराध की दुनिया के दलदल में फंस गए। इस कानून की यह विशेषता है कि यह बैक डेट से लागू हुआ।



▶ सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने स्पष्ट किया जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट के पेचीदा सवाल को

▶ इस कानून के अमल में आने से पहले भी किसी बाल अपराधी ने जुर्म किया है तो उसे नए कानून का फायदा दिया जाएगा

यानी यदि इस कानून के अमल में आने से पहले भी किसी बाल अपराधी ने जुर्म किया है तो उसे नए कानून का फायदा दिया जाएगा। जुवेनाइल जस्टिस एक्ट, 1986 के तहत 16 साल की उम्र के अभियुक्त को बाल अपराधी माना गया था लेकिन 2000 में संशोधित किए गए कानून में उम्र को सीमा बढ़ाकर 18 साल कर दी गई।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने स्पष्ट किया कि 18 साल की उम्र के दावे में देरी से अभियुक्त को ही नुकसान होगा लेकिन यदि उसने ट्रायल कोर्ट द्वारा फैसला सुनाए जाने के बाद भी जुवेनाइल होने का दावा किया है तो अदालत उस पर विचार करे। इसी तरह हाईकोर्ट में अपील की सुनवाई के दौरान और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में विशेष

अनुमति याचिका सूचीबद्ध होने पर अभियुक्त किशोरावस्था का दावा पेश कर सकता है, भले ही उसने दोनो निचली अदालतों में 18 साल की उम्र का दावा पेश न किया हो। उम्र का सबूत अभियुक्त को ही पेश करना होगा। कानून में स्कूल सर्टिफिकेट, नगर पालिका या पंचायत से हासिल किए गए जन्म प्रमाण पत्र को अहमियत दी गई है लेकिन सर्टिफिकेट की प्रामाणिकता के बारे में अदालतों को छानबीन करने का अधिकार है। प्रमाण-पत्र सही होने पर ही यह लाभ दिया जा सकता है। अदालतों को यह देखना है कि अपराध के समय अभियुक्त की अवस्था वितनी थी।

जस्टिस टाकुर ने अलग से फैसला लिखते हुए कहा कि इस कल्याणकारी कानून का लाभ देते समय अदालतों को यह ध्यान रखना होगा कि हमारे देश में निरक्षरता बहुत अधिक है। अपराध और निरक्षरता का गहरा रिश्ता है। स्कूल जाने में असमर्थ बहुत सारे बच्चे अपराध की दुनिया में कूद जाते हैं। इसलिए बहुत से बाल अपराधियों के पास अपनी उम्र का सबूत नहीं होता। इस तरह के हालातों के लिए भी कानून में प्रावधान है। यदि जुवेनाइल के पास अपनी उम्र को साबित करने के लिए प्रमाण नहीं है तो उसकी आरंभ चिकित्सा परीक्षण से हासिल की जा सकती है।

Rashtriya Sahara, October 26, 2012, P.9

Provide toilets at schools within six months, orders Court

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed all States and Union Territories to ensure that basic toilet facilities, particularly for girl students, are provided in all schools within six months.

A Bench of Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra gave the direction on a petition from the Environmental and Consumer Protection Foundation since it was informed that the court's direction issued in October last was yet to be implemented by

many States, which sought further time.

The court had said: "Right to free and compulsory education of children in the age group of six to 14 is part of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21-A. This right cannot be enjoyed unless basic infrastructure is provided by the state. While keeping this in view, we, in our order dated October 11, 2011, gave a direction to the States to provide basic toilet facilities to children, girl children in particular."

The court had said, "Experi-

ence and empirical survey have revealed that parents are reluctant to send their children... to schools where... toilet facilities are not available. The... consequence is breach of children's fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21-A. If it is not possible to provide permanent toilets, then at least temporary toilets are provided on or before November 30, 2011 and permanent toilets be made available by December 31, 2011."

See also Page 13

The Hindu, October 04, 2012, P.1 and 13

SC gives 6 mths to govt for toilets, water in schools

Deadline Is Also For Teachers' Appointment

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Six months after upholding the constitutional validity of Right to Education Act, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre and the state governments to ensure drinking water, separate toilets for boys and girls and teachers in every school.

A bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra directed the governments to provide within six months "toilet facilities for boys and girls, drinking water facilities, sufficient classrooms, appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff" in all schools.

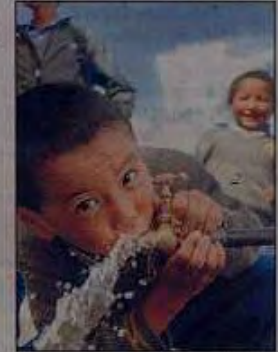
"We make it clear that these directions are applicable to all the schools, whether state-owned or privately owned, aided or unaided, minority or non-minority," said Justice Radhakrishnan, who authored the judgment for the bench.

The order came on a petition filed by NGO 'Environment and Consumer Protection Foundation' which through advocate Ravindra Bana has been litigating for the last eight years for a direction to the governments to provide basic infrastructure in government-run schools.

The court had been issuing interim orders over the years and a bench headed by Justice Dalveer Bhandari, now a judge of the International Court of Justice, had been monitoring the performance of states in providing drinking water and toilets in state-run schools.

Though the bench of Justices Radhakrishnan and Misra disposed of the PIL giving a six-month deadline to the government to comply with the direction, it gave permission to the petitioner to move court for initiation of appropriate proceedings after six months against defaulting states.

The bench recalled that in its April 12 judgment, the apex court had upheld the RTE Act and ordered full implementation of the provisions enacted by Parliament to make Right to Education



The court directive is applicable to all schools, whether state opened or privately owned, aided or unaided, minority or non-minority

meaningful for children in the age group of 6-14 years.

In its April judgment, the apex court had quoted 2007-08 statistics to note that of the 12,50,755 schools imparting elementary education in India, 80.2% were government run, 5.8% private aided and 13.1% were private unaided. Of these, 87.2% of schools were located in rural areas.

In its interim order of October 18, 2011 in the NGO's PIL, the SC had said, "It is imperative that all schools must provide toilet facilities. Empirical researches have indicated that wherever toilet facilities are not provided in schools, parents do not send their children (particularly girls) to schools. It clearly violates the right to free and compulsory education of children guaranteed under Article 21A of the Constitution."

The bench said since the apex court had in April this year ordered full implementation of RTE Act, provisions of which mandated governments to ensure that schools took all necessary steps to uphold children's right to education, there was no need for keeping the PIL pending.

The court noticed that statutory authorities under RTE Act as well as the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had been empowered to examine implementation of the law relating to right to education by schools.

It said, "We are confident that the statutory authorities will examine and review the safeguards for the child's rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation."

Send all kids working as servants to school: SC

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: If you have a domestic help below the age of 14 years, then the authorities may soon visit your house and send her to school.

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Centre and states to conduct a countrywide drive to identify children below 14 years engaged as domestic help and send them to school in order to fulfill the mandate of the Right to Education Act.

The court said even though the RTE Act mandated free and compulsory education to children below 14 years, many were still working as domestic help.

"Large number of children are working as domes-

► Bonded labour, P 18

tic help in urban, town and rural areas with no chance to go to school even though education from Standard 1 to 8 is compulsory under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009," a bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra said.

The bench directed panchayats and local bodies to identify such children and ensure that they received proper education.

"We are not unmindful of the fact that in some households, they treat domestic help just like their children and give food, clothing and education, but they are exceptions," said Justice Radhakrishnan, who wrote the judgment for the bench.

SC: 36-yr-old law fails to check bonded labour

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Disposing of a 30-year-old petition by NGO Public Union for Civil Liberties, which had brought before the apex court the issue of widely prevalent bonded labour, the Supreme Court on Monday said it was a matter of serious concern that even after 36 years of enactment of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the inhuman practice continued to survive in the country because of

lack of proper checks and rehabilitation system. The bench said forced labour was still rampant in brick kilns, stone quarries, crushing mines, beedi manufacturing, carpet weaving, construction industries, agriculture, in rural and urban unorganized and informal sector, power looms and cotton handlooms, fish processing units etc.

It quoted the National Human Rights Commission's latest report to the court on bonded labour, which said, "It is almost confirmed beyond doubt that efforts at identification of bonded labourers through fresh surveys are lackadaisical and the outcome of such surveys is nil; there is inordinate delay in securing rehabilitation of released labourers, and the penalties awarded to the employers are not proportional to the judicial severity of the crime."

The bench said, "Suffice it to say that on June 30, 2011, in all, 2,780 cases involving about 1 lakh bonded labourers have been registered in the NHRC and presently 841 cases are under consideration of the commission."

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com



MATTER OF CONCERN

Khap now blames chowmein for rapes

Manveer Saini | TNN

Chandigarh: A khap panchayat in Haryana's Jind district has blamed consumption of chowmein behind the growing incidents of rapes in the state saying it leads to hormonal imbalance.

"To my understanding, consumption of fast food contributes to such incidents. Chowmein leads to hormonal imbalance evoking an urge to indulge in such acts," said Jitender Chhatar, a resident of Jind's Chhatar village and thua khap panchayat leader.

"You also know the impact of chowmein, which is a spicy food, on our body. Hence, our elders also advised to consume light and nutritious food," Chhatar added.

Last week, khap panchayats had evoked outrage after Sube Singh, a khap leader,

advocated lowering of age of marriage for girls from 18 years to 16 years on the grounds that young girls are vulnerable to rapes and should be married off earlier.

Om Prakash Chautala, leader of opposition, too backed the khaps' demand while Congress leaders including Haryana congress chief Phool Chand Mullana and education minister Geeta Bhukkal had stated that growing rape cases were a conspiracy against the state government.

Dharamvir Goyat, another Congress leader, had sparked off a controversy by saying that 90% of the rape cases were consensual.

Former minister and Congress MLA Sampat Singh said on Monday that "lack of intellectual growth" was the reason behind rising crime against women.

The Times of India, Oct 16, 2012, P.17

The Times of India, October 16, 2012, P.1 and 18

आरटीई: निःशुल्क शिक्षा पर केंद्र से जवाब तलब

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शिक्षा के अधिकार (आरटीई) को हरी झंडी देने के फैसले पर फिर से विचार करने की अपील पर सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार से जवाब तलब किया। कर्नाटक के गुरु सहायता प्राप्त निजी स्कूलों की ओर से दायर याचिका में कहा गया है कि आरटीई का मुद्दा संवैधानिक होने के बावजूद शीर्षस्थ अदालत को तीन सदस्यीय पीठ ने इसका निपटारा किया, जबकि पांच सदस्यीय संविधान पीठ को इस पर विचार करना चाहिए था।

देश के दूर-दराज क्षेत्र का हर निजी स्कूल 25 प्रतिशत निःशुल्क सीटें कमजोर वर्ग के बच्चों को देने का भार वहन नहीं कर सकता। यह व्यापार, पेशा और व्यवसाय करने को प्रदत्त मूल अधिकार के प्रावधानों के खिलाफ भी है। जस्टिस केएस राधाकृष्णन व जस्टिस दीपक मिश्रा पीठ ने इस मामले में अटॉर्नी जनरल जोई वाहनवती को भी नोटिस जारी किया है।

Amar Ujala, Oct 09, 2012, P.10

SC: IDENTIFY KIDS WORKING AS DOMESTIC HELP

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed all states to conduct fresh surveys to identify how many minors worked as domestic help even after the enactment of the Right To Education Act.

A double bench said the survey, to be done with the help of local panchayats, would be submitted to the NHRC.

Issuing further directions, the court ordered fresh surveys to be conducted periodically — once in three years — to ascertain how many children worked as bonded labourers.

The survey findings should be made part of a computerised database available on websites.

"A large number of children are working as domestic help in urban and rural areas with no chance of going to schools even though the education from Class 1 to 8 is compulsory under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009," the court stated.

Hindustan Times, Oct 16, 2012, P.13

Indian Representation of Women Act

The cabinet is also expected to consider amendments to Indecent Representation of Women Act to include cyber space, multi-media messaging and TV under its ambit and impose hefty fines for any violation.

The women and child development ministry has proposed that indecent representation of women through any other medium such as print, audio, visual including ads would also be punishable with a fine of ₹50,000 and a three-year jail term.

The proposed amendments have not only widened the scope of the existing legislation but have also substantially enhanced the penalties for violation of the Act.

The original Act, enacted in 1986, relates to print media and prohibited indecent portrayal of women through ads, publication, writing and painting.

Hindustan Times, Oct 11, 2012, P.15

Sibal seeks Opp support for passage of Education Bills

NEW DELHI, Oct 19 — Observing that capacity augmentation in the field of higher education cannot be achieved without approval of key pending legislations, Government today expressed hope that Opposition will support their passage in the winter session of Parliament.

Referring to the Accreditation Bill, the Unfair Practices Bills and the Foreign Education Providers Bill, HRD minister Kapil Sibal said roping in private and foreign players to set up universities and colleges would remain unfulfilled unless these Bills are cleared.

"I believe and I hope that in the winter session, the Opposition will support us in passage of these Bills," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

The Government alone cannot meet the demands in higher education sector as 45 million students are expected to go to universities by 2020 when gross enrolment ration would touch 30 per cent, he said.

Earlier, he had regretted that Opposition parties were not allowing discussion on these Bills despite being cleared by the Parliament standing committee which comprises members

from across parties.

Inaugurating the first India-New Zealand education council meeting here, he said India will collaborate with them in the field of research and skill development along with various areas.

MoUs between Indian and New Zealand institutes were signed on the occasion.

Talking about the low-cost Aakash device, which Sibal showed to New Zealand's Minister for Education, Skills and Employment Steven Joyce, he said the device will be provided to every student in the country in the coming five to seven years. — PTI

The Assam Tribune, October 20, 2012, P.10

NO HEALTH WITHOUT WEALTH

Subodh Varma | TG

India has the dubious distinction of being home to the world's largest number of sick people. It is also home to the largest number of malnourished people. Dig a bit deeper and you will find a bizarre contradiction: we seem to have got the worst of both poor and rich countries. About 37% of deaths are caused by infectious diseases such as TB, malaria, diarrhoea, etc while 53% are due to metabolic or non-communicable diseases such as heart ailments and diabetes.

So, who is responsible for this dire situation? British colonial rule? Large population? Lack of education? After 65 years of Independence, these arguments are wearing thin. What prevents us from ensuring that every mother gives birth under safe, sanitary conditions, with access to emergency backup?

If this was done, 70,000 mothers would not die every year. Even Bangladesh, with no economic superpower claims, has managed to reduce maternal mortality rate (MMR) from 320 per 100,000 live births in 2001 to 194 by 2010. In India, MMR continues to be as high as 212.

Every year, 17.3 lakh children under five years die in India, most of them before their first birthday. The infant mortality rate of 50 deaths per 1000 live births in 2009 is inching down — it was 58 in 2005

— but look at Bangladesh: they have reduced it from 102 in 1990 to 41 in 2009.

■ STAGNANT SHARE

These chilling examples show that the problem lies in the way public health has been neglected in India. Resources allocated by successive governments have been highly insufficient despite claims that health for all is a priority. Take a look at government spend on health (Centre plus states) over the last five years. In 2007-08, it was Rs 44,977 crore — 0.9% of India's GDP. Five years later (2011-

12), combined expenditure on health had risen to Rs 90,569 crore, but as a share of GDP, it remained at 1%.

Now, the government is proposing to hike public spending on health by half a percentage point — 1.5% of GDP — for 2012-17 under the 12th Plan. This is what the draft chapter on health in the Plan documents states. Health activists are up in arms at this meagre increase. Even the Planning Commission's own high-level expert group and steering committee had suggested that public health should get at least 2.5% share of GDP.

■ PRIMARY SICKNESS

What happens when governments don't spend enough? Here is a snapshot of two key aspects of healthcare: physical infrastruc-

ture (dispensaries, hospitals) and human resources (doctors, nurses, technicians). Physical infrastructure consists of the gigantic network of health sub-centres (SC), primary health centres (PHC), community health centres (CHC) and district hospitals (DH).

There are supposed to be 1,78,267 SCs in the country on the basis of one per 1000 population. In reality, there are only 1,48,124 — about 17% short. More than 40,000 are in rented buildings while buildings for 13,000 sub-centres are still being made. A quarter of them don't even have water and a similar proportion have no electricity.

Higher up, it's the same story: 18% shortfall in PHCs, 34% in CHCs. District hospitals are only 4% short of the target but as lower centres are insufficient and ill-equipped, people rush directly to district hospitals, causing massive over-crowding.

These figures are available in the government's bulletin on Rural Health Statistics for 2011. Several states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, J&K, Himachal and many in the Northeast have done much better and there is no shortfall of CHCs. But in Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, UP and West Bengal, the shortfall ranges between 33 and an incredible 91%. This clearly shows that political will at the state level, as much as finances, can make all the difference.

■ MANPOWER MALAISE

What about 'human resources'? The situation is shockingly bad. The country's government-run healthcare system is short of 76% doctors, 53% nurses, 88% specialists, 85% radiographers and 80% laboratory technicians. So even where infrastructure is in place, the absence of doctors and nurses renders it meaningless. Gujarat, for instance, has only a 5% shortfall of CHCs, but only 76 out of 1,220 specialists are there to man them. Odisha has 377 CHCs al-

though only 327 are required as per norms. But the state has only 438 of the 1,570 specialists required for these CHCs.

Clearly, lack of investment in key areas such as infrastructure and qualified personnel has hit public healthcare, and apathy at the state government level has made things worse.

If this is what the government's health delivery system looks like, how do common people manage? Where do they go when they fall sick? The answer is obvious but also hides one of India's biggest tragedies.

It is this: the country with the largest number of poor people — and the biggest chunk of patients — in the world also has the most privatized healthcare system of all nations. To compound the problem, India has

low medical insurance penetration. Lack of affordable and easily accessible state health infrastructure forces people into the waiting arms of profit-seeking private hospitals in ever-larger numbers, putting an enormous load on already stretched facilities. It opens the doors to unscrupulous operators fleecing poor patients. It also paves the way for neglect and tragedies that occasionally make headlines.

■ GOING PRIVATE

India has one of the highest proportions of OOP (out-of-pocket) spending on healthcare in the world. According to the ILO's World Social Security Report 2010-11, OOP spend in India was about 76%, putting it in the bracket of such extremely poor countries as Congo, Chad, Burundi and Guinea. OOP spending is just 13% in US, 12% in UK and 33% in Brazil.

Economic theory would dictate that people would not buy goods or services that are too costly for them. This may apply to chocolates and deodorants but healthcare cannot be dealt with in this way. When somebody falls sick, the family will be forced to seek medical attention even if it means destroying their meagre budget.

In India, according to one calculation, this catastrophic OOP spending has pushed 3.9 crore people into poverty in the past few decades, although an estimated 20% of sicknesses go untreated because people just don't have the money to see a doctor.

Many non-governmental organisations and movements are involved in filling the gaps left by the country's creaky healthcare system. Their activities range from palliative measures like distributing cheap medicine to participating in government-sponsored campaigns like polio immunisation.

Others, like one of last year's winners of the Social Impact Award in health, have brought about deeper changes in a small region, thus improving health indicators like maternal and infant mortality. Such activities may not set right all the ills of the system but they do provide much-needed help and relief to suffering people.

TILL BILL

OUT OF POCKET EXPENSE

(Private spend in %)

India	Guinea	Congo
76	87	62
Chad	US	UK
62	13	12
Russia	China	Brazil
30	54	33

Source: WHO 2009, % of total health expenses

SPEND ON HEALTH

	Govt	Pvt	Total
2004-05	0.9	2.9	3.8
2007-08	0.9	2.6	3.5
2010-11	1.0	2.2	3.3

Source: Planning Commission, % of GDP



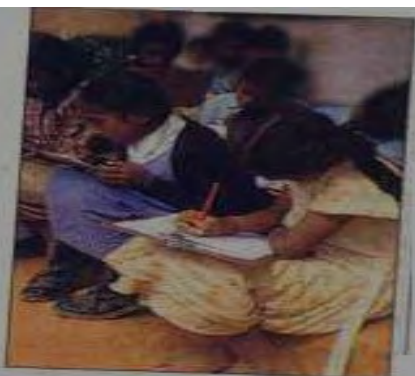
INFRASTRUCTURE

	Shortfall
Sub Centres	17
Primary Health Centres	18
Community Health Centres	34
District Hospitals	4

HUMAN RESOURCES

	Shortfall
Doctors	76
Specialists	88
Nurses	53
Radiographers	85
Lab Technicians	80

Source: Rural Health Statistics 2011, Figures in %



Funds released for RTE quota reimbursement

BANGALORE: The Karnataka government has released Rs 29.46 crore as the first instalment towards reimbursement of the expenses incurred on students admitted under the 25 per cent quota prescribed by the Right to Education Act.

A total of 49,736 students have been admitted in private schools (excluding minority institutions) under the RTE quota during the present academic year.

The government will have to reimburse Rs 58.92 crore to private schools at the rate of Rs 11,848 for each student. The balance of the sum will be released in January next year.

The funds available under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have been made use of for reimbursement, according to the government order.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, Oct 15, 2012, P.5

Education dept to buy 2.5L desks

Nazliya Ahl | TNN

New Delhi: Waking up to the acute shortfall of desks in government-run schools, the Delhi government's education department has decided to issue tender for procuring 2.5 lakh desks. The department added that the tendering process must be completed within a month's time to ensure the availability of desks in

phases over the next few months.

According to government figures, five lakh students — of total 15 lakh studying in various government schools — sit on floor to study. But despite government's best efforts, the probability of students getting their desks by this winter is negligible. "We are trying to push it as hard as possible. Lets hope we get it at the earliest," said education Minister Kiran Walla, after a meeting with senior officers of finance and planning department on Thursday.

For a long time, this matter has been shuttling between one department and another despite previous education minister, Arvinder Singh Lovely, passing an order to do the same in July last year.

One of the reasons for the delay, said sources in education department, has been the ongoing negotiations between the finance department and

TENDERS OUT SOON

DSIIDC

over the latter's demand of 3% service

tax for the job. After taking over education department in September this year, Walla had asked for a change in desk design. "The sample showed to us had too many nails, and I had ordered for a better design. We are also trying to resolve the service tax issue also," Walla added.

At present desks for government-run schools are procured from the carpentry unit of Tihar Jail but the same is not being able to meet the demand now.

The Times of India, October 19, 2012, P.6

विशेष पोषक आहार पर चालू साल में होंगे 1104 करोड़ खर्च

भोपाल, 17 अक्टूबर (भाषा)। मध्यप्रदेश में मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष में विशेष पोषक आहार योजना पर 1104 करोड़ रुपए खर्च किए जाएंगे। राज्य शासन के महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के अनुसार राज्य शासन ने योजनावार प्रत्येक तिमाही के लिए राशि तय कर दी है। निर्धारित राशि को नई तिमाही से खर्च करने को कहा गया है।

विशेष पोषक आहार योजना के लिए हर तिमाही में 276-276 करोड़ रुपए की राशि खर्च होगी। लाडली लक्ष्मी योजना पर राज्य सरकार इस साल 584 करोड़ रुपए खर्च करेगी। पहली तिमाही (अप्रैल-जून) में 130 करोड़ रुपए की राशि इस योजना पर खर्च की गई है। हाल में समाप्त हुई दूसरी तिमाही में 145 करोड़ रुपए की राशि तय की गई है। इसी तरह तीसरी तिमाही पर 145 एवं चौथी तिमाही पर 164 करोड़ रुपए की राशि खर्च की जाएगी। किशोरी बालिकाओं के सशक्तिकरण के लिए 15 जिलों में चल रही 'सबला योजना' के लिए इस साल बजट में 25-25 करोड़ रुपए खर्च किए जा रहे हैं।

विभागीय तौर पर यहां बताया गया कि लगभग डेढ़ लाख आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता और सहायिकाओं को दिए जाने वाले अतिरिक्त

मानदेय के लिए 150 करोड़ 40 लाख रुपए का प्रावधान चालू साल में है। इसमें से पहली एवं दूसरी तिमाही पर 35.50 करोड़ रुपए प्रति तिमाही खर्च किए गए हैं। चालू तीसरी तिमाही में 39.7 करोड़ रुपए का भुगतान किया जाएगा। इतनी ही राशि का भुगतान चौथी तिमाही में भी होगा।

'इंदिरा गांधी मातृत्व सहयोग योजना' के लिए उपलब्ध कराई गई 21 करोड़ रुपए की राशि में से पहली और दूसरी तिमाही पर क्रमशः 4.73 करोड़ रुपए और 5.59 करोड़ रुपए की राशि खर्च की गई है। चालू तीसरी तिमाही में 5.59 करोड़ रुपए की राशि खर्च की जा रही है। अंतिम चौथी तिमाही में 5.16 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होंगे।

विभाग ने कहा है कि 'समेकित बालक संरक्षण योजना' पर अमल करने के लिए चालू साल के दौरान विभिन्न पदों पर नियुक्तियों की जाएंगी। इसके लिए महिला-बाल विकास विभाग के बजट में 3.8 करोड़ रुपए का बजट प्रावधान किया गया है। तीसरी और चौथी तिमाही के हर भाग पर एक करोड़ 54 लाख रुपए खर्च होंगे। विभागीय बजट में 'महिला डेस्क' के लिए छह लाख की राशि रखी गई है। दूसरी, तीसरी और चौथी तिमाही पर दो-दो लाख की राशि मुहैया कराई गई है। दूसरी तिमाही की राशि खर्च की जा चुकी है।

Jansatta, October 18, 2012, P.5

Health Care Cover for Just 50% Indians by 2015: World Bank

ENS Economic Bureau

New Delhi: Fifty per cent of Indians or 630 million people or barely half of India's population will come under health insurance coverage by 2015, a World Bank report released here on Thursday said.

According to the report "new generation of health financing schemes can help India progress towards universal health coverage. More than 630 million persons or half the country's population are likely to be covered by health insurance by 2015," the report on Government-Sponsored Health Insurance Schemes (GSHIS) said.

"The new generation of government sponsored health insurance schemes is improving the use of public resources

for health especially for the poor," World Bank Country Director India Onno Ruhl said.

The study pointed out that "the coverage remains far from comprehensive as the schemes are focused on inpatient often surgical care".

According to the study over

Joyana, commercial insurance and state-sponsored schemes.

Over 300 million people or more than 25 per cent of India's population gained access to some form of health insurance by 2010 up from 55 million in 2003-04, the study said adding that over half of

“ NEW GENERATION OF GOVT HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEMES ARE IMPROVING USE OF RESOURCES FOR HEALTH — Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director, India

the last five year GSHIS have contributed to a significant increase in the population covered by health insurance in the country.

Most of the growth is likely to occur along the three lines - Rashtriya Swasthya Bima

the insured are from below poverty line (BPL) families.

The study also suggested building upon the public infrastructure that is already available and augmenting it with the public infrastructure already available.

The New Indian Express, October 12, 2012, P.13

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