

CHAPTER - 21

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD INCLUDING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SUPPORT

WCD & NUTRITION (ICDS)

21.1 The development of women & Children is the core of any civil society and social structure. Although progress is reflected in many of the areas but there are still major areas of concern as far as women and children are concerned. IMR, MMR, malnutrition among children, high rates of anemia among children and women, high incidence of childhood diseases, child marriages, declining sex ratio of girls under 6 years, socio-economic status of women etc. are the areas which need focused attention and concerted efforts for improvement. Only by focusing on the issues concerning women & child, it is possible to bring any meaningful development in society. The basic theme and focus of the XIth Plan needs to be women and children.

Child Development

21.2 There has been a rapid progress in expansion of the ICDS programme in Rajasthan during the last 5 years. From 191 ICDS Projects in 1998-99 the number of projects has gone upto 274. Similarly the number of Anganwari Centres has increased from 27233 in 1998-99 to 46862 in 2007-08. The population coverage under ICDS has also increased from 56% to about 90%. Numbers of interventions/innovative programmes were introduced during this period for improvement in functioning of Anganwari Centres and quality improvement in delivery of various services under ICDS Scheme. The World Bank assisted ICDS-III Project was introduced in 1999-2000 which provided necessary funds for various interventions. This project is now concluded in March, 2006. State Government also initiated certain important steps for improving health and nutrition status of women and children through ICDS with an aim to reduce malnutrition, IMR, MMR and improving upon immunization and health check-up and counseling services. These included institutionalization of Mother & Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Day, induction of Sahayogini as a third functionary for out of centre activities and assigning functions of ASHA for proper convergence and coordination of health and ICDS activities. This functionary is now called ASHA Sahayogini. The new programme for management of child malnutrition includes setting up of Malnutrition Treatment Centres (MTCs), along with district hospitals with focus on intensive training of Health as well as WCD functionaries in treatment and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children, system of providing hot cooked meal through Mothers Committees, WSHGs, Annapurna Women Cooperative Societies at the Anganwari Centre and intensive training programme

including on the job training for functionaries were developed and introduced.

21.3 However, there are still constraints which adversely affect the health and nutrition status of women and children. These can be broadly classified as under:

- Natural and inherent problems including adverse climatic conditions, scattered habitations which make the access of services difficult. Lack of availability of safe drinking water is also a contributory factor for child morbidity.
- Different socio-cultural background and traditional mind-set leading to faulty child feeding and care practices, gender bias and disparity, low female literacy rate, early marriages including child marriages, ignorance about nutritional and health needs of pregnant women and children.
- Difficulties in access to the available services or ignorance about such services.

21.4 The objective of ICDS programme is to improve the health and nutritional status of women and holistic development of children.

Goals and Strategies for XIth Plan

Reducing Malnutrition

- Virtual elimination of acute severe malnutrition and reduction in malnutrition among children under 3 years of age upto atleast 25.3% by the end of XIth plan. Malnutrition in children upto 5 years is to be brought down to atleast 30% by 2011.
- Exclusive breast-feeding to be increased to 75%. Complete feeding of infants aged 6-9 months to be increased to atleast 80%.
- IYCF practices to be given priority for promotion of feeding best practices.
- Mission mode approach to combat malnutrition among children under 3 years in tribal areas to be introduced.
- Expansion of Management of Child Malnutrition Scheme throughout the State including establishment of Malnutrition Treatment Centres (MTCs) in district hospitals.
- Training component for management malnutrition to be strengthened

Reducing Infant Morbidity & Mortality

- Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate atleast to 32/1000 by the end of XIth plan.
- Complete immunization coverage to be increased to 90% of children.

- Strengthening Integrated Management Neo-natal & Child hood Illness (IMNCI) system.
- Empowering families for child care and development.

Reducing Maternal Mortality Ratio

- MMR to be brought down to atleast 148 per one lac of live births by the end of the XIth plan.
- Promotion of institutional deliveries.
- Iron and Folic Acid supplementation to pregnant women.
- Anemia in women to be reduced to 24.3% by the end of the XIth plan.
- Improvement in antenatal services to cover all pregnant women.
- Expansion in emergency delivery services.
- Efforts will be made to provide atleast one medical facility available for 24 hours within 15-20 km radius.

Adolescent Girls

21.5 Issues concerning adolescent girls will be addressed keeping in mind the life cycle approach.

- Kishori Shakti Yojana to be strengthened.
- School health check up programme to be initiated and expanded to all the schools including educational institutions for girls.
- Programme on the lines of National Nutrition Mission for providing food grain to adolescent girls upto 18 years weighing less then 35 k.g. needs to be promoted throughout the state.
- Mid-Day-Meal programme for girls to be extended upto 10th class.
- Adolescent girls clubs to be formed and supported.
- Specific scheme for non-school going girls in 6 to 11 years of age to be formulated and implemented.

Food Security & Nutrition

21.6 Food security is generally understood to mean availability of eatable food at affordable and reasonable prices. Food availability is affected by various natural and artificial factors such as failure of monsoon, non availability of water for cultivation and other conditions including drought and other natural disasters. On the other hand taking advantage of the low production the traders tend to create artificial scarcity and hike prices of concerned food items. These sorts of situation with lack of employment create difficulties for the people particularly belonging to socio-economically weaker sections to manage their day to day feeding requirements. Therefore, to avoid such adverse situations it

is necessary to have a system where food could be procured easily and at reasonable cost by the people specially belonging to poor sections of the society.

21.7 Food security thus becomes a priority area not only for the Government but for the community at large. Along with ensuring availability of food it is necessary to see that nutritional requirements of different age groups are also met.

Goals & Strategies for XIth Plan -

- Separate department for food security and nutrition to focus on food security in an integrated manner is recommended.
- Food and nutrition security and safety policy be developed and implemented.
- Special food and nutrition cell on the lines of Food & Nutrition Board to be setup.
- A system of demonstration in proper cooking methods including counseling on nutritional requirements to be developed for creating awareness.
- The services of graduate/post-graduates of home science colleges to be utilized in creating awareness regarding food security and nutrition.
- Regular inspections and quality checks to ensure clean and healthy foods for the customers at each and every eating place.
- Food and Nutrition visitors proposed to be appointed. Participation of NGOs could be promoted.
- Supply chain under TPDS to be improved to ensure availability of food stock at FPSs.
- Department of Food & Civil Supplies to be strengthened in terms of manpower and mobility.
- Civil Supplies Corporation recommended to be set up.
- Strict enforcement of Food Adulteration Act is to be ensured.
- Sufficient stock of food grain and other essential commodities to be maintained at strategic points particularly in areas frequently facing drought situation.
- Grain Banks could be set up through women SHGs.
- Assessments of poverty levels need to be assessed regularly for appropriate management of supplies.

ICDS- Nutrition

21.8 A provision of Rs. 89337.01 lac has been proposed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this expenditure of Rs. 14642.00 lacs

likely to be incurred during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 17898.96 lacs has been proposed for 2008-09 which includes Rs.14898.96 lacs for committed items and Rs. 3000.00 lacs for new items. Details of major activities are as under:-

Supplementary Nutrition

21.9 Supplementary Nutrition to the malnourished children of the age group of 6 months to 6 years and to the pregnant and the lactating women will be provided at the Anganwadi Centers for 300 days in a year.

Financial implications on SNP:

21.10 Now the nutritional scenario of the state has been changed. Only one district namely Banswara has been remains under WFP. CARE is totally withdrawn their free nutrition commodity support. Now remaining 31 districts have been brought under local food supplies. Hot cooked nutrition is being provided to 3-6 year children at AWCs through SHGs/ Mothers Committees/Women cooperatives. Hot cooked nutrition norm rate is revised upwards and now Rs 224 paisa and 248 paisa per day per beneficiary is being provided to Mothers Committees and SHGs respectively. Pregnant and lactating mothers are being served with hot cooked nutrition under "Janani Kalewa" in 10 urban projects with financial support of respective Local bodies. A spot processed nutrition pilot project is also initiated for under three year children in Tonk district. This experiment is now extending in some more projects during current financial year.

21.11 At present GoI has prescribed norm rate of Rs.2/- per day per benef. for supplementary nutrition to malnourished children. For severely malnourished children this rate is Rs. 2.70/- and Rs.2.30/- for P&L mothers. It is estimated that around 48.37 lacs children and mothers will be enrolled for supplementary nutrition after first and second phase expansion of ICDS programme in the state including 2681 mini anganwaries.

21.12 A provision of Rs. 61823.00 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this expenditure of Rs. 10000.00 lacs likely to be incurred during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 12000.01 lacs has been proposed for 2008-09 as state share.

Appointment of Sahyoginis

21.13 To strengthen the ICDS services at grass root level and regularly counsel the families of ICDS beneficiaries, an additional honorary worker named "Sahyogini" has been appointed at all the sanctioned 46862 anganwari centres of the state. A lump sum honorarium of Rs. 500.00 per month is being paid for her work. This activity not only requires continuity but additional support in the form of exposure and monitoring of activities.

21.14 A provision of Rs. 14579.07 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this expenditure of Rs. 2404.52 lacs likely to be incurred during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 2400.00 lacs has been proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 for committed.

National Nutrition Mission - Pilot Project (ACA)

21.15 An innovative scheme for nutrition to under weight pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls in the age groups of 10+ year to 19 year is being implemented in Dungarpur and Banswara districts of the State under National Nutritional Mission as Pilot project since 2002-03. Six Kgs. wheat per months per beneficiary is provided free of cost through PDS to identified beneficiaries for which funds are provided by Planning Commission under Additional Central Assistance for plan items. This scheme was initially sanctioned for two year. Now GoI has permitted to implement this scheme during 2006-07 also with some modifications. Only adolescent girls are being benefited.

21.16 A provision of Rs. 1837.00 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this expenditure of Rs. 342.00 lacs likely to be incurred during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 363.95 lacs has been proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 for committed.

Anganwari Welfare Fund

21.17 A new scheme regarding welfare of anganwari personnel has been announced in the state budget of 2005-06. According to announcement 25% amount will be contributed by state govt. against the annual deposits of these women. For this purpose a benevolent fund shall be established. Formulation of modalities and terms of reference of this fund has been finalized. In all, 1.46 lakh women employed under ICDS will be benefited by providing membership of fund. Monthly contribution of Rs. 50/- for Anganwari worker and 25/- for Sahyogini and Helper has been decided. Thus, a sum of Rs.150/- for Worker and Rs.75/- for each Sahyogini and Helper will be contributed annually by State. However, state share will be paid only after full receipt of annual contribution from each of registered member of the fund on one by one basis.

21.18 A provision of Rs. 702.93 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this expenditure of Rs. 140.47 lacs likely to be incurred during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 135.00 lacs has been proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 as state share.

Construction of AWCs

21.19 ICDS programme adversely affected due to lack of proper infrastructure for running anganwari specially in rural area. Approximately 50% AWCs are running in rented buildings where proper space for play and other activities for children are not available. During last two years around 7000 AWC buildings were constructed by providing matching share or dovetailing these works with famine relief works.

Supplementing these efforts, it is required to carried out these activities in a time bound manner with consistency. So during Eleventh Five Year Plan period 5000 AWC buildings will be constructed @ 1000 per annum.

21.20 At present there are 278 ICDS projects in function. Out of which 237 are functioning in rural areas in rented buildings. Proper accommodation and nutrition storage facilities are not available in these buildings. The construction of CDPO office cum godown has been taken in phased manner to tackle this problem.

21.21 A provision of Rs. 10395.01 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this provision of Rs. 1755.01 lacs likely to be incurred during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 2950.00 lacs has been proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 for construction of Anganbari center building and CDPO office cum godowns.

Supply of Utensils

21.22 Akshyapatra Foundation is providing nutrition on AWCs of Jaipur & Baran districts. Foundation has demanded transport vessels for nutrition commodities. The estimated cost of one vessel is Rs. 2200.00. For smooth and hygienic procurement of hot cooked nutrition, transport vessels will be provided. A pilot project has been launched for spot processed nutrition for under 3 year children. This initiative will be extended in five more blocks. The storage bins will be required for procurement of nutrition. A provision of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been proposed during the year 2008-09 for these new items.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT

21.23 Rajasthan was the first State to launch Women Development Programme in 1984 in 6 districts, which was later on extended to whole of the State. The programme aims to empower the women economically and socially by imparting them knowledge, education and training in order to bring them into the main stream of development. Though significant progress has been achieved on this account, still much requires to be done. Female literacy (44.34%) continues to be low in comparison to the national average. Sex ratio particularly under 6 years is a cause of serious concern. Women and girls continue to carry a far greater burden of illiteracy, poor health, social discrimination and poverty as compared to many parts of the country. Realising the peculiar position of women and girls in the State, State Government in the year 2000, announced the Women's Policy aimed at creating an enabling environment where women's struggle for quality and social justice will be supported and promoted by the Government at all levels. For this purpose the Govt. of Rajasthan has setup a directorate for Women Empowerment during the 2007-08.

Goals & Strategies for Eleventh Five Year Plan

Social

- Prevention of child marriage through advocacy and strict enforcement of Child Marriage (Restraint) Act.
- WDP to be strengthened and reactivated to create awareness among women for their social empowerment.
- Women support groups to be formed.

Economic

- More than 1.12 lac SHGs have been formed in the State. Efforts will continue to form more SHGs in the rural areas. SHGs will be strengthened and linkages with financial institutions facilitated. Training programmes in skill development and management etc. will be a priority area.
- To provide crèche in each Government Office having 5 or more women employees.
- Women Cooperative Societies to be promoted and strengthened.
- Share capital to Women Cooperative Societies suggested to be increased.
- To promote research in and development of implements/equipments particularly in agriculture sector to facilitate safe working of women agriculturist.

Protection

- It is proposed to formulate a scheme for removing and rehabilitation of girls depended on women engaged in prostitution.
- There are 14 women police stations in the State. To provide atleast one women police station in 23 remaining districts.
- To recruit women police officers/staff for women police stations and for women desk at other police stations.
- To create safe working environment at the work place.
- To create environment for protection to working women from harassment and to provide mechanism.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

21.24 A provision of Rs. 6500.00 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this provision of Rs. 851.39 lacs likely to be incurred during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 1086.48 lacs has been proposed for 2008-09. The major scheme wise details are as under:-

Table No. 21.1

(Rs. in lacs)

S. No.	Items	Proposed outlay 2007-12	Likely exp. during 2007-08	Proposed outlay for 2008-09
1	Honorarium of Sathins	4947.00	589.78	625.00
2	Community marriages	170.00	55.00	55.01
3	Building for WSHGI	585.00	100.00	175.00
4	Swawlamban (NORAD)	343.00	32.00	32.01
5	Mahila Kalayan Kosh	-	6.90	6.90
6	International Women's Day	50.00	8.00	10.00
7	Zila Mahila Sahayata Samiti	-	-	16.01
8	Creches	405.00	45.00	50.00
9	Gender Budgeting	-	-	2.00
10	Hon'ble CMs 5 points Women Empowerment Programmes	-	-	100.00
11	Others	-	14.71	14.54
	Total	6500.00	851.39	1086.47
12	An integrated project for development of women & adolescent girls in Rajasthan (WB-EAP)	-	-	0.01
	Grant total	6500.00	851.39	1086.48