

## CHAPTER - 23

### EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

23.1 The development of women & children is the core of any civil society and social structure. Rajasthan has made an impressive progress in many spheres. During the last three decades there has been rapid reduction in poverty and substantial increase in HDIs. The number of people below poverty line has declined by 3.1 million between 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Literacy rate particularly among women has shown a remarkable progress. In rural areas women literacy has gone up from 9.2 (1991) to 37.74% (2001). Although, the improvement is marginal but the sex ratio as indicated in the Census 2001 has been the best in the last 100 years. NFHS-3 data shows a considerable reduction in IMR and Malnutrition among children below 3 year over NFHS-2

23.2 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.

#### **Child Development**

23.3 There has been a rapid progress in expansion of the ICDS programme in Rajasthan. The number of ICDS Projects has gone up from 257 in 2001-02 to 278 in 2007-08. Similarly the number of Anganwari Centers has increased from 35821 in 2001-02 to 51053 in 2008-09. The population coverage under ICDS has as a result also increased from 65% to about 95%.

23.4 Sahayogini has been introduced as a third functionary specially for taking care of pregnant women and children under three years who could not come to the anganwari center. She has been assigned the functions of ASHA for proper convergence and coordination of health and ICDS activities. This functionary is now called ASHA-Sahayogini.

23.5 Pre school component at anganwari centers is being strengthened in coordination with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Learning and play material is being provided by SSA and efforts are being made to make the centers child friendly.

23.6 Challenges and Goals: -

- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** - It is true that IMR has reduced by 15 points in Rajasthan from 80 in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 65 per

1000 in 2005-06 (NFHS-3), it is still higher in comparison to the national average of 58. However, the goal is to reduce it at least up to 32 per 1000 live births by 2011.

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** was 670 per one lac live births in 1998-99. It has reduced to 445(SRS 2003-04). However, the goal is to reduce it at least up to 148 per one lac live births by 2011.
- **Anemia-** As per NFHS-3 (2005-06), 53% women in the State are found to be suffering from anemia of which 2% are severely anemic. On the other hand prevalence of anemia among children accounts for 80% of whom 10% are severely anemic. The goal is to reduce it at least up to 24.3 % of 2011.
- **Malnutrition** is also high in Rajasthan. There has been reduction in malnutrition among children 0-3 years of age from 51% in 1998-99 (NFHS - 2) to 44% in 2005-06 (NFHS - 3). The goal is to reduce it to 25.3 % by 2011.
- Percentage of children 0-6 months, being exclusively **breast-fed** as per NFHS-3 (2005-06) is 33.2%. Intensive efforts by the state govt. have resulted in it increasing to 65% as per DLHS-3(2007-08) survey. Early initiation of breast-feeding including colostrums feeding has increased from 13.3% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) to 41% as per DLHS-3 (2007-08) survey.
- The **institutional deliveries** have increased from 32% as per NFHS-3 (2005-06) to 45.5% as per DLHS-3 (2007-08). The goal is to achieve 70% institutional delivery by 2011.
- The **full immunization** of children has increased from 17% in NFHS-2 (1998-99) to 27% as per NFHS-3 (2005-06). It has further improved to 48.8% as per DLHS-3 (2007-08). 65% children are to be fully immunized by the year 2011.
- The children who have been provided **vitamin-A supplementation** in last 6 months has increased from 13.3% as per NFHS-3 (2005-06) to 50.8% as per DLHS-3 (2007-08).

### **Strategies**

23.7 Efforts are being made for virtual elimination of acute severe malnutrition and reduction in malnutrition among children under 3 years of age upto at least 25.3% by the end of XI<sup>th</sup> plan. Malnutrition in children upto 5 years is to be brought down to at least 30% by 2011. For this the state is adopting the following strategies:-

- Mission mode programme, to combat malnutrition among children under 3 years in tribal areas is under implementation. In first phase 13 districts have been covered. The programme will be extended to other parts of the state in a phased manner.

- For prevention and treatment of malnutrition 9 Malnutrition Treatment Centers (MTCs) have been established at district level hospital in 7 districts. All 33 districts shall be covered in a phased manner by 2009-10.
- Monthly Maternal Child Health & Nutrition Day (MCHN) is being implemented for providing immunization, ante natal check-ups of pregnant women and health checkup of children and counsel them about health and nutritional issues. MCHN days are being organized at more than 88% of the anganwari centers.
- Neo natal wards at Community Health Centre level are being established in order to prevent infant mortality considering the increase in institutional deliveries.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices are being promoted. ICDS and health functionaries are being trained for better counseling and support to families specially mothers.
- SHG made ready to eat supplementary nutrition is being provided to children of 0-3 year's age, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls in 64 projects. It will be extended to all the projects by 2011. Fortification of supplementary nutrition to children prepared by self help groups has been initiated in 9 blocks of 7 districts. It shall be extended to other blocks in 2009-10 in a phased manner.
- Hot cooked supplementary nutrition is being provided to 3-6 year children at AWCs in 32 districts through SHGs/ Mothers Committees/Women cooperatives. Pregnant and lactating mothers are being provided hot cooked meal as "Janani Kalewa" in 11 urban projects with financial support of respective Local bodies.
- Biannual supplementation of vitamin-A is provided to children of 0-5 years. Vitamin-A supplementation has increased from 13.3% as per NFHS-3 (2005-06) to 50.8% as per DLHS-3 (2007-08). The goal is to increase it at least up to 90% in 2009-10.
- Efforts are being made to achieve greater convergence with the medical & health department. For the purpose a joint monitoring mechanism of major parameters has been set up.

## **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

23.8 Rajasthan ranks low in the various indices related to women. Female literacy (44.34%) continues to be low in comparison to the national average. Adverse sex ratio of 922 as per Census 2001 particularly sex ratio of under 6 years is a cause of serious concern. The mean age at marriage for girls though low has increased from 17.2 to 17.7 years between DLHS II (2002-04) & DLHS-III (2007-08). Social evils such as child marriage, dowry system, feticide, infanticide, etc are still in vogue.

23.9 The Directorate of Women Empowerment was setup in 2007 to deal with the social and economic empowerment issues in a focused manner.

**Women Development Programme (WDP):**

23.10 With a view to increase awareness among women and to involve them in development programmes, Rajasthan launched the Women Development Programme (WDP) in the state in 1984 in 6 districts with the following objectives :

- To make women aware about their own potential.
- To generate awareness among them about their own rights and prevailing social evils.
- To increase participation of women in development programmes.

23.11 The WDP has now not only been revived but extended to the entire state. Under the programme 237 Prachetas and 8456 Sathins are functioning. Women support groups are being formed.

**Five point programme for Women Empowerment:**

23.12 The state government has initiated a Five Point Programme for Women Empowerment in coordination with Departments of Medical and Health and Education. The programme aims at achieving the following by 2011 :

- Retention of girl's till class X
- Eradication of Child Marriages
- The facility of institutional delivery to every woman
- CBR to be reduced to 21/1000
- Self Employment of 1000 women in every district every year
- **Retention of girl's till class X:** The state is striving to enroll all girls in schools, bring about 100% reduction in drop out of girls at primary level and increase the retention of girls up to class X to 80% by 2011.
- **Eradication of Child Marriages:** A joint programme by the departments of Home, Social Justice & Empowerment, Education, Medical and Health, and Women and Child Development is being implemented to address the issue. Public representatives and officials are being sensitized. Sub-divisional Magistrates have been appointed Prohibition officers under the Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 2006. Special campaigns, sensitization workshops and information,

extension and communication activities against child marriages are being conducted.

- ***The facility of institutional delivery to every woman:*** Focused attention is being given to increase institutional deliveries in the state under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). As per the Medical and Health dept's report 61% women in the state are availing the facility of institutional delivery. Efforts are also being made to make women stay in the institutions for at least 24 hrs after delivery. For the purpose, facilities of clean maternity wards, clean toilets and running water, etc at the institutions, especially at the Community Health Centre (CHC) level have been increased.
- ***CBR to be reduced to 21/1000*** by increasing couple protection rate to 65% by 2011.
- ***Self Employment of 1000 women in every district every year.*** More than 36000 women were self employed in 2007-08 after being provided training and bank credit.

#### **Self help Group (SHG) Programme:**

23.13 More than 169755 women SHGs have been constituted. Of these, 122722 WSHGs have been credit linked and bank credit of Rs. 263 crores has been taken by them. The state has been acting as a facilitator for providing training and helping access credit.

23.14 An SHG Institute for women setup in 2006 and seven regional resource centers are functioning at the divisional level to provide and coordinate the training and help in the marketing the products of the SHG's.

23.15 A marketing society under the brand name "AMRITA" has been created for assisting marketing of SHG products.

23.16 2% incentive in rate of interest is proposed to be provided by the state to 20000 women SHGs for making timely re-payments of their loans.

#### **Gender Responsive Budgeting:**

23.17 The State Government initiated gender auditing in 6 departments namely Medical and Health, Education, Agriculture, Women and Child Development, Registration and Stamp and Social Welfare during 2006-07. The exercise was taken up in 8 more departments in 2007-08. From next year, a chapter on gender budgeting is being made an integral part of plan document.

#### **Balika Mandals:**

23.18 Balika Mandals are being created at Panchayat level to focus on the development of out of school adolescent girls. Through these mandals

life skill education shall be provided to the adolescent girls with Sathin acting as their mentor.

#### **Implementation of Domestic Violence Act:**

23.19 Under the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, 548 protection officers have been appointed which includes all district level officers of Women and Child Development and Prachetas, all the government medical institutions have been declared as medical facility, 97 NGO's have been designated as service providers.

#### **Swalamban:**

23.20 The Swalamban scheme transferred from GoI, is being implemented in the state. Under the scheme financial assistance is being provided to NGO's for undertaking vocational trainings for women.

#### **Child development- plan outlays:**

23.21 A provision of Rs. 87500.01 lac has been proposed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this expenditure of Rs. 24676.22 lacs likely to be incurred during the year 2008-09 upto Dec.08. A provision of Rs. 23890.77 lacs has been proposed for 2009-10 for committed items. Details of major activities are as under:-

#### **Supplementary Nutrition**

23.22 GoI has revised the funding norm (w.e.f. 23.12.08) from Rs.2/- to Rs.4/- per day per beneficiary for supplementary nutrition to malnourished children. For severely malnourished children this rate is Rs. 6.00 (earlier Rs.2.70) and Rs.5.00 (earlier Rs.2.30) for pregnant and lactating mothers. It is estimated that around 48.37 lacs children and mothers will be enrolled for supplementary nutrition. Based on the current assessment a sum of Rs. 360.00 crore will be required for the next financial year. Out of which Rs. 180.00 crore is proposed under state plan and remaining to be proposed under CSS.

#### **Appointment of Sahyoginis**

23.23 To take the ICDS health and nutritional programme at the door step of pregnant women and children under three, an additional Worker named "Sahyogini" has been sanctioned at the 48372 anganwari centers of the state. The Sahayogini acts as ASHA under the NRHM programme. A lump sum honorarium of Rs. 500.00 per month is paid for her services as Sahyogini. For this purpose Rs. 14579.07 Lacs is proposed in XIth Plan out of which Rs. 2080.00 lacs is proposed for 2009-10.

#### **Honorarium to anganwari worker and helper**

23.24 In addition to the honorarium provided by GoI, the State Government is also providing additional honorarium of Rs.100/- and Rs. 50/- to anganwari worker and helper respectively under state plan. For this purpose Rs. 851.77 lacs is required for the year 2009-10.

### **Anganwari Welfare Fund**

23.25 A benevolent fund for the welfare of anganwari workers, helpers, sathin and Asha-Sahayogini has been established with the association of LIC. In all, 1.46 lakh honoraria paid women under ICDS will be benefited. 25% contribution is made to the fund annually by the State. State share is paid only after full receipt of annual contribution from registered members of the fund on one by one basis. For this purpose Rs. 135.00 lacs is required for the year 2009-10.

### **ICDS services (General)**

23.26 GOI has revised this funding pattern from 100% CSS to 90: 10 ratio. For this, Rs.2529.18 lacs will be required against 10% as State matching share during 2009-10.

23.27 Provision of Rs. 3575.00 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12. Against this expenditure of Rs. 166.96 lacs incurred upto Dec.08. A provision of Rs. 293.00 lacs has been proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10 for committed liability.

### **National Program for Adolescent Girls- (ACA)**

23.28 An innovative scheme for providing supplementary nutrition to underweight adolescent girls in the age group of 10 to 19 year was implemented by the Planning Commission in 2002-03 in Dungarpur and Banswara districts of the State. Under the scheme, six kg of wheat, per month per beneficiary is provided free of cost through PDS. Funds are provided by Planning Commission as Additional Central Assistance.

### **Women Empowerment- Plan outlay**

23.29 Provision of Rs. 2047.00 lacs has been proposed for 2008-09. Against this expenditure of Rs. 1043.96 lacs was incurred upto Dec.08. A provision of Rs. 1449.00 lacs has been proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10 for committed liability.

### **Sathin:-**

23.30 At present 8456 Sathins are working in the field. During 2009-10 remaining 723 Sathins will be selected.

### **Five point programme for Women Empowerment:-**

23.31 In the first stage, best 5000 groups from different districts of state would be imparted trainings in managerial capacity building & income generation activities. For managerial capacity building trainings, an amount of Rs. 17.50 lacs is proposed in the financial year 2009-10. Additional Rs. 50 lacs are proposed for trainings in income generation activities.

**Self Help Group (SHG) Programme:-**

23.32 In the year 2009-10 nine loan melas are proposed. In order to provide marketing Linkages to SHG products, one SHG Hat Bazar and two theme based “melas” were organized last year. One state level “haat” and 7 regional resource centre level “haat” are proposed in the year 2009-10. To create self employment for women, 65 mega and micro training in income generation activities are proposed in the year 2009-10. To conduct all activities mentioned above, a sum of Rs. 149.50 lac is proposed in the financial year 2009-10. For the year 2008-09 approximately 11000 WSHGs were found eligible for 2% incentive in rate of interest for timely repayment of their loan. For the year 2009-10 approximately 20000 WSHGs are expected to be eligible for the incentive.

23.33 Under Swalamban various NGOs are given financial assistance for undertaking training programmes for various vocations. A provision of Rs. 33 lacs is proposed for 2009-10.

**Grant-in-aid for Community Marriages:-**

23.34 Community marriages are meant to discourage dowry and reduce the expenditure on individual marriages. The grant in aid @ Rs. 6000 per couple is to be given under this scheme. A provision of Rs 60 Lacs has been proposed for AAP in 2009-10.

**Gender Responsive Budgeting:-**

23.35 The government has taken a decision to conduct gender budgeting to ensure the flow of funds for the benefit of women under various government schemes. To coordinate its execution and to hold a State level and regional workshops on prioritizing gender in the schemes, a provision of Rs 1 lac has been made for the year 2009-10.