

## **CHAPTER - 26**

### **Human Development**

#### **Strengthening State Plans for Human Development in Rajasthan**

26.1 Planning Commission and UNDP assisted project titled 'Strengthening State Plans for Human Development' is under implementation in Rajasthan. The project started in the year 2004 and will conclude in 2009. An amount of Rs. 183 crores were allocated to Rajasthan for various activities designed under the project. Till December 2008, an amount of Rs. 109 crores have been utilized. A Human Development Research & Coordination unit (HDR&C unit) was established at Directorate of Economics and Statistics to implement this UNDP and Planning Commission project.

#### **Priority issues**

26.2 The key outcomes under the project can be grouped under the priority issues of Analysis, Advocacy and Action. The activities would address the need:

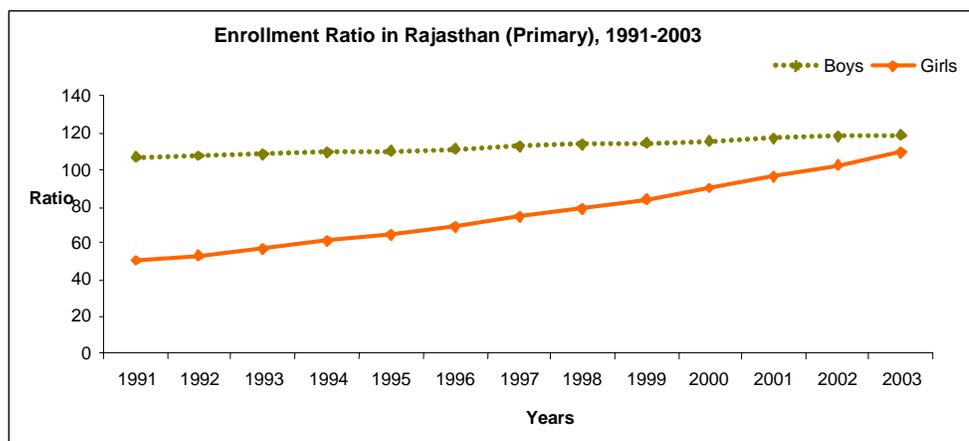
- To further deepen human development analysis, and to strengthen the capacity for analysis, so as to ensure a better understanding - at all levels - of key human development issues, priorities and challenges
- To strengthen human development advocacy through the dissemination and outreach of State HDRs and the outputs from their follow-up to ensure that their messages are internalized by planners and implementers of development programmes including line departments, agencies, district administration and local bodies and,
- For effective human development action, by contributing to informed decision-making through the identification and selection of high-impact human development strategy, policy and programme options as well as of convincing and sustainable human development financing options

#### **Status of key Human Development Indicators in Rajasthan**

##### **Human Development and Education**

26.3 In Rajasthan over the 1990s and early 2000s, enrolment rates at the primary level were rising and gender gap converging, though female

enrolment rate is still to catch up with that of male as the following chart indicates:



**Source: Department of Education, GOR**

26.4 Rajasthan had historically very low spread of education, but it has made enormous progress in the 1990s. Control school drop out rates and number of out of school children as well as reduce gender gap in literacy remain key concerns today in improving education status in Rajasthan.

### Human Development and Health

26.5 Rajasthan, like other states in north-western India belongs to that category of states where adverse sex ratio is an issue. Sex ratio was 910 in 1991 (female for thousand male), and 921 in 2001. The juvenile (age 0-6 years) sex ratio—which is a better indicator than the overall sex ratio, since women who survive the earlier years tend to outlive men in the later years—was 909 in 2001; there was almost a one per cent deterioration over the last count in 1991. Rajasthan also has a long way to cover in order to improve its maternal and infant mortality rates.

26.6 Decline in the IMR is sharper during the new millennium. The aggregate IMR declines from 85 in 1995 to 80 in 2001 and further to 67 in 2004. (SRS Bulletin, April 2006). The rural IMR has declined from 90 in 1995 to 74 in 2004 while urban IMR observes a sharper decline from 62 in 1995 to 42 in 2004.

Table No. 26.1

#### Health Status of the Population (in Rajasthan)

Health Indicators	NFHS-1 (1992-93)	NFHS-2 (1998-99)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)
Children under 3 Years who are stunted (%)	41.8	52.0	33.7
Children under 3 Years who are underweight (%)	44.3	50.6	44.0

Health Indicators	NFHS-1 (1992-93)	NFHS-2 (1998-99)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)
Children age 6-35 months who are anemic (%)	NA	82.3	79.6
Women whose Body Mass Index is below normal (%)	NA	36.1	33.6
<b>Maternity related</b>			
Institutional Births (%)	12.0	21.5	32.2
Births by Trained Professionals	19.3	35.8	43.2

*Source : NFHS-3 (Advance Estimates)*

26.7 The Government of Rajasthan has brought about a number of reforms to improve services at the hospital level through public-private partnerships, Medical Relief Services, Lifeline Fluid Stores and other institutions. At the lower level facilities, although some steps have been taken up in the form of decentralization and improving the quantity and quality of manpower, the State pre-dominantly depends on the interventions under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for improving services at lower level facilities. For improving hospital services, a major thrust has been laid on involving the private sector. Also, the private sector is being encouraged to set up new hospitals along with medical and nursing colleges to increase the supply of medical and para medical personnel.

### **Human Development and Livelihood**

26.8 Poverty, as is well-known, is a many-dimensional problem usually characterized by a lack of income and assets. These, more often than not, give rise to low access to basic amenities like housing, water supply and social security, apart from lack of employment. While the self-employment and wage employment schemes (SGSY and SGRY/NREGA) try to remedy the lack of adequate employment and income generation, the schemes of IAY and PMGSY have been introduced to tackle the problems of housing and infrastructure, providing for individual and community assets respectively that is expected to help the poor. The level of poverty (particularly rural) is better than other States, although there seems to be a marginal increase between 1999-2000 and 2004-05. Various schemes on employment generation have been launched, such as, SGRY (integration of Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme) is a wage employment programme launched by central government in 2002 for the rural sector. Although the primary focus of SGRY was on providing wage employment and alleviating poverty through the income availability route, it is expected that it would simultaneously serve the secondary objective of providing community assets like roads, water bodies, and school buildings.

## **Gender and Human Development**

26.9 Human development is defined as the process of enlarging the choices for all people, not just one part of the society. Such a process becomes unjust and discriminatory if most women are excluded from its benefits. Gender equality is therefore a core principle of human development. To quote the eloquent words of Mahbub ul Haq, “Development, if not engendered, is endangered.”

Gender Equality has several dimensions:

- Equal access to basic social services, including education and health.
- Equal opportunities for participation in political and economic decision-making.
- Equal reward for equal work.
- Equal protection under the law.
- Elimination of discrimination by gender and violence against women.
- Equal rights of citizens in all areas of life, both public - such as the workplace - and private-such as the home.

26.10 Until recently, it was assumed that development was gender-neutral – that both men and women could benefit equally from development, and that the benefits of development interventions spread evenly across society. This has now been shown to be a myth – the historical legacy of gender inequality in all societies across the world implies that there is no “level playing field”.

26.11 Rajasthan although has shown significant progress in the recent years but the gender gap in almost all indicators still persists Progress of Rajasthan in terms of Human Development may be witnessed in its Human Development Index (HDI), a composite measure of mainly three dimensions- living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). Rajasthan shows a gradual growth of HDI during 1981 at 0.256 to 0.424 in 2001 and increasing to 0.710 in 2007 on a total value of 1. (National Human Development Report, 2001 and Human Development Update of Rajasthan, 2008). All-India ranking of the state improved from 12th in 1991 to 9th in 2001. (Source: National HDR 2001. But persisting gender gap in all attainments indicate that human development in Rajasthan is yet to be attained in its true spirits.

## **Key Components of the Project**

### **1) Follow-up to the State Human Development Reports (SHDRs)**

- Capacity Building of State Planning Departments/Boards to Institutionalise Further the SHDR Process
- Pilot District-Level and Participatory HDR Exercises

### **2) Strengthening State statistical systems**

26.12 To enhance skills of its staff at all levels trainings on computer applications (basic as well as advance) have been designed. Basic trainings have been organized in 2008 in which 201 personnel were trained while advance trainings have been scheduled for 2009.

### **3) Financing of human development**

26.13 To identify issues and options for Financing of Human Development in the State, a draft policy briefs have been prepared by National Institute of Public Finance & Policy, New Delhi.

26.14 To analyze selected schemes (Central and State) for Human Development, a draft manual including selected successful government programmes from Rajasthan has been drafted.

### **Human Development Reports prepared under the project**

26.15 Under the project, an effort has been made under the project to put people at the center of development in state/district plans. In this context, a State HDR titled 'Human Development Report Rajasthan (An Update 2008)' prepared by Rajasthan with the support of Directorate of Economics & Statistics and key departments was released in September 2008. This report is aimed at not only helping in monitoring the development generally but also in areas emphasized by the earlier reports. The focus of this update is 'Inclusive Growth'. Aspects of Human Development are examined with respect to its distribution across regions, social groups and gender. This report has latest indices on Human Development related to education, health and livelihood aspects in the State. It has also computed and ranked district based on district level Human Development Index (HDI).

26.16 The project attempts to advocate human development issues in the state and district planning process by providing situational analysis through district human development profiles (DHDRs).

26.17 With this State level report, four pilot District Human Development reports (DHDRs) have also been prepared. Keeping in view that participatory planning, an important aspect of democratic decentralization in India, is a pre-requisite to converging public resources at district level for human development. Article 243ZD of the Indian Constitution provides for the formation of a District Planning Committee so which is to consolidate the plans prepared by Panchayats and the

Municipalities in the district and to devise a development plan for the district as a whole.

26.18 The Planning Commission has issued guidelines on district planning that emphasize the need for building a vision for the district. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) reiterates the objective of removal of regional imbalances through participatory planning processes at the grass-roots level. The Plan also identifies District Human Development Reports (DHDRs), which assess and quantify development imbalance at the sub-district level, as useful tools for analyzing intra-district development imbalance and suggesting possible solutions. It further recommends that, during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period, all the districts in the country should be progressively covered for the preparation of DHDRs. Currently, 56 districts of the country are preparing DHDRs as part of Planning Commission-UNDP Project “Strengthening State Plans for Human Development (SSPHD)”.

26.19 In Rajasthan, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur in collaboration with Directorate of Economics & Statistics, has prepared these four DHDRs for Dholpur, Barmer, Dungarpur and Jhalawar districts. After the pilot DHDRs, the project has proposed to prepare DHDRs for all BRGF districts in the State excluding those three districts, which were covered in the pilot reports. In 2009, the Project will coordinate with the District Administration in preparation of DHDRs for 9 Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) districts. The DHDRs could be the baseline surveys necessary for preparation of District Plans as well as they could be excellent tools for situation analysis and the visioning exercise envisaged in the district planning guidelines.

#### **Trainings at various levels to Strengthen Statistical Systems in the State and sensitize State & District Planners**

26.20 In view of Rajasthan’s commitment to the Eleventh Plan goals and the Millennium Development Goals, it is important to train officers and public representatives at all levels of governance to not only understand the conceptual underpinnings of human development but also evolve ways and means of operationalizing it on the ground. Under the project nominations, from the State 39 officers from various State Government departments and training institutes have attended National level training of trainers at Reserve Bank of India’s College of Agricultural Banking, Pune which has designed a special training course on Human Development and its issues and 9 officers participated in International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai on Vital Statistics. At State level 301 officials and at Divisional and District levels 1059 officials have been trained under several trainings courses organized. These trainings covered 7 Divisions and 14 districts of the State. More trainings are being planned through HCM-RIPA, Jaipur.

## **Engendering State and District Plans for Human Development**

26.21 It is well acknowledged that no State or District exhibits a uniform pattern of backwardness or development in terms of gender sensitive indicators. The relatively high growth States exhibit poor record on gender equality issues. Further, there is large variation across districts in States that are relatively doing well on gender issues. This stresses the need for gender sensitive planning both at the District and State level. More so, with the renewed emphasis on planning from the grassroots, it is pertinent to develop capacity of existing District Planning Committees to prepare gender sensitive plans.

26.22 'Engendering State and District Plans' component has been incorporated under the project to be implemented on pilot basis in Jaipur division. The activities under this component started in the year 2008 and focuses on in-depth training of District Planning Committees with aim to have gender sensitive plans at district, block and panchayat levels.

26.23 Directorate of Economics & Statistics in Rajasthan is facilitating training programmes covering District Planning Committee members as target audience. For this Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj Institution has been identified which has prepared a training module to sensitize District Planning Committee members and other stakeholders in the district planning process. Status and issues of gender inequality and solutions to identified gaps are brainstormed envisaging that the same would reflect in the forthcoming district plans. Three Training of Trainer Programmes have been held in 2008 in which 120 State, District and Block level officials, public representatives and NGOs were trained. While the most important activity of training district and block level public representatives, line departments and officers are under process in the year 2009.