

## 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 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 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 ICDS programme has expanded in the State during the last five years. The number of ICDS projects, which was 191 in 1998-99, has gone up to 304. Similarly population coverage under ICDS has also increased from 56% 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 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.
- The status of exclusive breast-feeding up to 6 months is not satisfactory (as per ICDS base line survey 2000 it was 10.01% which has risen to 45.01%) (ICDS End line survey 2005).
- Early initiation of breast-feeding including colostrums feeding is very low. This has to be improved upon for saving children from vicious circle of malnutrition-morbidity-severe malnutrition-mortality and so on and so forth.
- Prevention of child marriages and strict enforcement of Child Marriages (Restraint) Act.
- Strict enforcement of PNDT Act for prevention of feticide.
- Facilitating access to health services, whenever required particularly in emergencies.

### **Strategies**

23.6 In consonance with the goals and objectives laid down therewith following steps/ strategies have been evolved during Annual Plan-

- Combat malnutrition by ensuring adoption of new WHO standards in all the districts and weighing of all the children.
- Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illness (IMNCI) system should be strengthened and expanded to generate awareness regarding prevention from and treatment of diseases such as ARI, diarrhea and measles etc.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices to be promoted. ICDS and health functionaries will be trained for better counseling and support to families specially mothers.
- Monthly Maternal Child Health & Nutrition Day (MCHN) system to be strengthened with quality. The assembly could further be used for dissemination of information on other important matters like HIV/AIDS, IDD and use of Iodized salt.
- Management of severely malnourished children- establishment and strengthening of surveillance centers-early identification of malnourished children- and rehabilitation.

- Local cereals, vegetables and fruits may be promoted for improving nutrition.
- Prevention and treatment of malnutrition is to be taken as first step for preventing morbidity and mortality among children. Malnutrition Treatment Centers (MTCs) have been established at district/block level hospital in all districts. Strengthening the referral system and linkages to the ICDS program.
- Strengthening monitoring of ASHA-Sahyogini programme to improve the health indicators.
- Provision of infrastructure to Anganwaris in convergence with other departments.
- Emphasis of hygienic conditions and environmental sanitation through awareness generation programmes.
- Efforts will be made to achieve inter sectoral coordination and convergence especially with Medical & Health Department, Education, PHED and Panchayati Raj.
- IFA tablets and TT immunization to be provided to at least 90% pregnant women.
- Antenatal services to cover all the pregnant women.
- Coverage of pregnant women and children particularly belonging to socio- economically weaker sections of the society under supplementary nutrition programme at AWC.
- Educating families for taking care of pregnant women.
- All pregnant women and children to be registered at the Anganwari center.
- Infant and maternal mortality auditing to be developed with the Medical and Health dept to assess the causes of death within risk period of delivery. This will help in devising programme/strategies for preventing such incidence.
- Pre school education component to be strengthened. Community participation and involvement to be promoted for PSE and for providing equipment specially play material etc.
- Shifting of rented Anganwaris in the Primary/ Upper Primary schools to provided adequate space and conducive atmosphere for better and joyful learning.
- Focus will be laid on adolescent girls keeping in mind the life cycle approach. Existing programmes to be reviewed to make more purposeful. New programmes to be developed and executed. Also targeting adolescent girls for prevention, protection and early detection of HIV/AIDS.

- Community to be made aware of the ICDS services and increase their involvement for proper functioning of the Anganwari centers.
- New programme i.e. Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme (CMBS), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA) etc will be introduced to reduce IMR and MMR.
- 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.

23.7 The strategy of the Eleventh Five Year Plan is based on reaching unreached children and mothers through ICDS programme. Emphasis is laid on the strengthening of the on going scheme and also provision of additional inputs in the service. 10066 additional anganwaris have been sanctioned during financial year 2009-10. All these anganwaris will be operational by 2010-11. The proposed outlay for the Eleventh Plan is of the tune of Rs. 91075.01 lacs, out of which Rs. 23922.01 lacs will be proposed for annual plan 2010-11. The activity wise details are as under:-

### **Supplementary Nutrition**

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

23.9 Financial implications on SNP: Now the nutritional scenario of the state has been changed. Only one district namely Banswara remains under WFP. Remaining 32 districts have been brought under supply from State Govt. Hot cooked nutrition is being provided to 3-6 year children at AWCs through SHGs/ Mothers Committees/Women cooperatives. Nutrition is being provided through 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. Nutrition provided to 0-3 year's age children is prepared by local SHG in 98 projects during the current financial year.

23.10 GoI has revised the funding norm of nutrition in 2009-10. Now minimum unit cost is Rs.4/- per day per benefit for supplementary nutrition to malnourished children. For severely malnourished children this rate is Rs. 6.00 and Rs.5.00 for P&L mothers. The State is committed to bear 50% of the total cost.

### **Appointment of Sahyoginies**

23.11 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 sanctioned at the 48372 anganwari centres of the state. In first phase, 26521 sahyoginies were sanctioned during

2004-05, 9300 during the 2005-06 and remaining 11041 has been provided during last year of tenth five year plan and 1510 has been sanctioned in 2008-09 year. A lump sum honorarium of Rs. 500.00 per month is paid for her services. The task of ASHA under NRHM is also entrusted to Sahyoginies. It is also proposed to appoint 6543 Sahyoginies as per sanctioned number of Anganwaries in the state i.e. 54915. This activity not only requires continuity but additional support in the form of exposure and monitoring of activities. An expenditure of Rs 2080 lac is likely to be incurred for the program. For this purpose Rs. 2500 lac is proposed for 2010-11.

#### **Honorarium to AWW and AWH**

23.12 To strengthen the ICDS services and looking to work rendered by the AWW and AWH the GoR has increased the honorarium of AWW by Rs. 200 and Rs. 100 for AWH during the budget announcement of 2009-2010. The Budget provision has been accordingly substantially increased to pay the honorarium. For this purpose Rs. 2868.00 lac will be required for the next financial year 2010-11.

#### **Anganwari Welfare Fund**

23.13 A scheme regarding welfare of Anganwari personnel has been implemented in the state since 2005-06. According to provisions of the scheme 25% amount will be contributed by state govt. against the annual deposits of these women. For this purpose a benevolent fund has been established under administrative control of this department in association with LIC. In all, 1.71 lac women employed on an honorarium basis under ICDS will be benefited by providing membership and matching annual contribution. Monthly contribution of Rs. 50/- for Anganwari worker and 25/- for Sahyogini, Mini AWW and Helper has been decided. Thus, a sum of Rs.150/- for Worker and Rs.75/- for each Sahyogini, Mini AWW 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. Hence a sum of Rs. 702.93 lac was kept for XIth plan out of which Rs. 150.00 lac have been kept for 2010-11 as state share.

#### **Construction Works**

23.14 ICDS programme is adversely affected due to lack of proper infrastructure for running anganwari especially in rural area. Only 40% AWCs are running in departmental buildings where proper space for play and other activities for children is available. To curb this problem a decision has been taken to shift anganwaries in rented premises to primary/ Upper Primary schools where separate room and adequate space is available to run anganwari. But still large number of anganwaries required proper infrastructure. Department formulated a proposal to construct anganwari buildings with the financial support of NABARD under RIDF. It is proposed to construct 380 buildings during

2010-11 with an estimated unit cost of Rs. 3.15 lac as per layout plan. The proposal has been approved by NABARD.

23.15 Funds were transferred for the construction of anganwari in the earlier years to Zilla Parishads. A liability of the previous works to the tune of 460.00 lac is required. For this purpose Rs. 10395.01 Lac will be required during 2007-12, out of which Rs 1657.00 lac will be proposed for 2010-11.

#### **National Nutrition Mission - Pilot Project (ACA)**

23.16 An innovative scheme for providing nutrition to under weight adolescent girls in the age groups of 10+ years 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. food grain per month 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 2007-08 also with some modifications. GoI has indicated the launch of a new scheme for adolescent girls into which this scheme shall be merged. Assuming that this scheme would continue or revamped to include new blocks/ districts, a sum of Rs. 3575.00 lac for eleventh plan out of which Rs.322.00 lac has been kept for the year 2010-11.

#### **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent girls - SABLA (RGSEAG) :**

23.17 This scheme is meant for improvement of the health and nutrition status viz a viz holistic development of adolescent girls. This scheme is formulated after merging of existing Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) and Kishori Shakti Yojana(KSY) with richer content. It will be implemented through ICDS network. It would be a CSS scheme with cent percent administrative financial assistance of GoI except nutrition for which only 50 percent of the actual expenditure incurred will be borne by Central government rest will be borne by State. It is estimated that about 36 lac adolescent girls will be benefited which are in the age group of 11-18 year (11 to 14 years out of school girls and all girls in the age of 15-18 year) through anganwaries.

#### **State Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

23.18 A decision has been taken to constitute a Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the state as per the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. Formulation of rules and regulation for this commission is under process. The organisation will be setup and appointments will be made as per provisions of Act to fulfill the commitments laid down in the constitution. For this purpose Rs. 50.00 lac has been proposed for the year 2010-11 under state plan.

Summary of Proposed Outlay for Annual Plan 2010-11

(Rs. In Lac)

S.No.	Item/ Activity	Outlay Proposed
<b>A.</b>	<b>Committed Liability</b>	
1.	Supplementary Nutrition to Beneficiaries	13374.00
2.	General Administration of ICDS (10% state share)	2750.00
3.	General ICDS Trainings(10% state share)	99.99
4.	Honorarium to Asha- Sahyoginies	2500.00
5.	Addl. Honorarium to AWWs and AWHs	2868.00
6.	Anganwari Kalyan Kosh	150.00
	<b>Total Committed Liabilities</b>	<b>21741.99</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>New Items</b>	
1.	Anganwari Building Construction	1657.00
2.	Supply of Utensils at new anganwaries	151.00
3.	State Child Right Protection Commission	50.00
4.	CMBS for mothers	0.01
5.	NNM-NPAG	322.00
6.	RGSEAG-SABLA	0.01
	<b>Total New Items</b>	<b>2180.02</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23922.01</b>

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

23.19 Women Empowerment is the corner stone for the development of the society as a whole. Women constitute nearly half the population of the State and no development could be sustainable without the active and equal participation of women in all the activities of the society, including political, social and economic. The real empowerment of women, however, depends, upon the creation of an enabling environment-social and economic that increases their participation in decision making process.

23.20 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.

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

### Sathin -

23.22 Sathin are the prime animators working at the grass root level to propagate women development programmes and to generate awareness among women. Sathin acts as a mentor to the rural women and makes them aware of their social economic and political rights and widens her knowledge base to access the benefits and entrustments of various schemes and programmes of the State. There are 9189 Sathins covering all Gram Panchayat of the State, Presently 8500 Sathins have been

selected. During Annual Plan 2010-11 remaining 689 Sathins will be selected.

23.23 During 2010-11 Annual Plan a provision of Rs. 1100.00 lac is proposed for the honorarium of the Sathins and Salary of Employees.

**CM's Seven Point Programme for Women Empowerment: -**

23.24 Empowerment of women is possible only if this is based on a Life Cycle Approach. In the present scenario with negative mindset for the girl child it is extremely important that her dignity and security is established in the society. This will be possible only when all such impediments being faced by her, are addressed in a comprehensive and convergent manner. For this a cross sectional and multidimensional approach has been adopted as CM's 7 Point Programme, as announced by the Hon'ble CM vide his budget speech for the year 2009-10.

23.25 Programme for Women Empowerment Following seven issues will be taken up on priority –

- Safe Motherhood.
- Reduction in IMR.
- Population Stabilization.
- Prevention of child marriages.
- Retention of girls at least upto class X.
- Providing security and safe environment to women.
- Economic Empowerment by providing self employment opportunities through the Self Help Group Programme.

23.26 7 Point Programme for Women Empowerment focusing on the education, health and financial needs of women, is to be implemented through convergence of concerned departments and for meeting out the gaps. During the next financial year i.e. 2010-11 a provision of at least Rs. 48 Lac may be made to propagate and coordinate activities under the programme.

**Safe motherhood & Kalewa scheme**

23.27 Maternal mortality ratio in the state of Rajasthan is third highest in the country after U.P and Aassam and more than the average for the nation i.e. 388 per lac live births as compared to 301/lac live birth the country. In spite of development of huge health infrastructure in the state this could not bring reduction in MMR from the last one decade. This has raised the serious question on the functionality and quality of care provided in these institutions especially in the rural areas.

23.28 Low social status of women, poor nutrition and care during pregnancy and after delivery are the major reasons for this high MMR. Although after introducing JSY there is a drastic reduction in MMR and



increase in institutional deliveries in last three years, however post natal care still needs attention because post natal hemorrhage is one of the major reasons of maternal deaths. Women are generally taken away within 6-8 hours after delivery from the medical institution and this is quite harmful for the life of mother and child both. One of the reasons for this is no availability of facilities at medical institutions.

23.29 In view of the above the Department of Women & Child Development in collaboration with NRHM initiated Kalewa scheme. Three nutritious meals soon after delivery are being provided to women at the medical institution. The scheme has been implemented in 07 PHCs and has produced positive results.

### **Prevention of Child Marriage**

23.30 The mean age at marriage of girl's is only 17 years and more than 50% girls are married before the age of 18 years. Presently the proportion of married girls aged 15-19 years who are mothers is 25.1%. Early marriage of girls results in early pregnancy and also affects their education and employment opportunities. Also this results in their lack of decision making over their reproduction right, which often has an adverse effect on their health. Therefore Women Empowerment Programme has decided to end child marriages by 2012. The prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 has been passed by the GOI.

### **Economic Empowerment by providing self employment opportunities through the Self Help Group Programme -**

23.31 Managerial capacity building training would be provided to the office bearers of WSHG before joining them to IGA Activities so that women can be empowered. In 3 days training session, training on managerial capacity building, Udyamita Vikas & IGA will be provided. Presently there are 187000 SHG's members and it is the endeavor of the department to promote self employment opportunities for these women such that they are able to earn atleast Rs.1100 per month and get economically empowered.

### **Self Help Groups-(SHG)**

23.32 Formation of SHGs has been recognized as one of the major initiatives for empowerment of women. So far more than 1.87 lac Women Self Help Groups have been formed. Credit linkages of groups have been institutionalized and more than Rs. 317.78 crore have been provided as loan-assistance to these groups through various financial institutions. Around 18 lac women have been associated with these groups. Under 2010-11 action constitution of 15000 new SHG have been proposed whereas 20000 Groups are the target for credit linkage to WSHGI.

### **SHG Haat Bazar**

23.33 To promote the marketing of SHG products one State level SHG Haat is proposed by covering SHGs from all over the State. For this event, a sum of Rs.18 lac is proposed for 2010-11.

### **Regional Training Hub/ Regional WSHG**

23.34 To strengthen the SHG Programme all over the State, seven Regional WSHG training cum resource centre have been set up. These RRC would act as the training hubs for the area specific trainings. Through these training hubs the women would be provided different type skill up gradation, capacity building, trainings etc. Along with this department would facilitate in marketing of WSHG product by connecting with to different agencies/ local markets/ haat bazaars. For this purpose a sum of Rs.14 lac is proposed for 2010-11.

### **2% Interest Rate reimbursement to WSHGs -**

23.35 The essence of WSHG programme is empowerment hence the focus of various activities is capacity building. However, there is a need to incentives the entrepreneurship abilities herein.

23.36 WSHGs who have made timely re-payments of their loan would get 2% incentive in rate of interest charged against the loans. So as to reduce the interest burden. For the year 2008-09, 2009-10 app. 11000 WSHGs were found eligible for which an amount of Rs. 20 lac is required for 2010-11.

### **Amrita-Promotional Activities for Annual Draft Plan 2010-11**

23.37 For the marketing of WSHGs products in the State, a society named Amrita has been registered under Rajasthan Registration Society Act through which WSHGs products would be sold under Amrita Brand. Apart from this Amrita society would also play a major role in promotion of marketing linkages, skill upgradation, value addition, design diversification and packaging of WSHG's products.

- **Priyadarshini Model Women Self Help Group Scheme:-** This is the scheme to strengthen 10 SHGs in each district of the State as model WSHG which would be called Priyadarshini WSHG's. Transforming WSHG into model SHG will be done by selected NGOs working in the field of microfinance, entrepreneurship development, and production and marketing related activities.
- **Amrita Women Self Help Group Award Scheme:-**Amrita Women Self Help Group Award Scheme has been initiated to encourage WSHGs and NGOs showing outstanding performance in SHG programme and supporting the department in strengthening this programme. The best performing WSHG and NGO would be awarded with Rs. 50000/- and Rs. 20000/- respectively.

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

23.38 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 Lac has been proposed for 2010-11.

### **Gender Budgeting-**

23.39 The State Government has taken a decision to conduct gender budgeting to ensure the flow of funds for the benefit of women under various government schemes. A provision of 100% budgeting for women has been reserved for Directorate of Women Empowerment. To coordinate its execution and to hold a State level workshop for evaluating the WDP with the changed focus prioritizing gender in the schemes. There is also a need to review and revamp the State policy for women with a gender perspective for which interactive sessions with various departments shall be required. For establishment of Gender Budgeting Cell and various training required to be imparted. A provision of Rs. 38.61 is proposed in 2010-11.

### **Swavlamban-**

23.40 Realizing the importance of training and self employment for purpose of facilitating women to participate in income generating activities, various NGOs are given financial assistance under Swavlamban for undertaking training programmes for various vocations. Where as remaining is under process a provision of Rs 33 lac has been proposed for 2010-11.