

## **CHAPTER - 27**

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

#### **WCD & NUTRITION (ICDS)**

27.1 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 XI<sup>th</sup> Plan needs to be women and children.

#### **Child Development**

27.2 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 2005-06. The population coverage under ICDS has also increased from 56% to about 90%. Number 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. The outlay for ICDS under 10th Five Year Plan was Rs. 1317.91 Crore against which a sum of Rs. 1049.07 crores is likely to be incurred. State Government increased allocation for nutritional component to ensure regular supply of nutrition to Anganwari Centres.

27.3 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.

27.4 The objective of ICDS programme is to improve the health and nutritional status of women and holistic development of children. Learning from the gains and weaknesses emerged during the 10th Plan period and to give more impetus to the programme following goals and strategies are suggested for the XIth Plan period.

### **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 Child hood Illness (IMCI) 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**

#### **Goals and Strategies for XIth Plan**

27.5 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.

## **WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT**

27.6 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.

### **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.

### **Food Security & Nutrition**

27.7 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. This sort 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.

27.8 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.
- Assessment of poverty levels need to be assessed regularly for appropriate management of supplies.

### **WOMEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

27.9 A provision of Rs. 6500.00 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 and Rs. 851.39 lacs for Annual Plan 2007-08. The scheme wise provision are as under:-

(Rs. in lacs)

S. No.	Item	Annual Plan 2007-08	Eleventh Plan 2007-12
1	Honorarium of Sathins	614.90	4997.00
2	Institute of Self Help Group (SHG)	67.32	585.00
3	Community Marriage	48.00	170.00
4	NORAD	68.07	343.00
5	Creches	50.00	405.00
6	Prevention of Child marriage	3.10	-
	<b>Total</b>	851.39	6500.00

### **ICDS- Nutrition**

27.10 The proposed outlay for the Eleventh Plan is of the tune of Rs. 91075.01 lakhs out of which Rs. 15015.01 lakhs is for Annual Plan 2007-08.

27.11 The scheme-wise proposed outlay for Eleventh Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2007-08 are as under:-

\

(Rs. in lacs)

	Items	Proposed for 2007-12	Proposed for 2007-08
<b>A-Development of Children including ICDS</b>			
1	Appointment of Sahyoginies	14579.07	2509.51
2	AWC Constr. and Matching Share	10395.01	1650.01
3	Anganwari Welfare Fund	702.93	140.49
	<b>Total (A)</b>	<b>25677.01</b>	<b>4300.01</b>
<b>B-Nutrition</b>			
1	Nutrition to Beneficiaries	61823.00	10000.00
2	National Nut. Mission Pilot Proj.- NPAG	3575.00	715.00
	<b>Total (B)</b>	<b>65398.00</b>	<b>10715.00</b>
	<b>Grant Total</b>	<b>91075.01</b>	<b>15015.01</b>

### **Supplementary Nutrition**

27.12 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:**

27.13 In case food is provided by CARE/WFP then the state govt. has to provide Rs. 75/- per year per beneficiary to meet the commodity management cost. If local food is provided then Rs. 600/- per beneficiary per annum will required to be borne out of the State budget for Local Food Projects. These Norms have been fixed during the year 2005-06. The actual average rates of nutrition per day per beneficiaries come out to Rs. 1.65 from open tender during the year 2005-06. State government is already providing hot cooked nutrition to 3-6 year children. This initiative is also being implemented for mothers in 10 urban areas. Looking to these aspects and direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court procurement of nutrition for all category of beneficiaries could be decentralized and handed over to community i.e. SHGs/ Mothers Committees/Women Cooperatives etc. Under these circumstances at least Rs. 2 per day per beneficiary will be required. The proposed coverage under SNP is 46.86 lakhs children and mothers per day during Eleventh Plan period as per present pattern of 100 beneficiaries per AWC.

27.14 A provision of Rs. 61823.00 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 and Rs. 10000.00 lacs for Annual Plan 2007-08 as state share.

### **Appointment of Sahyoginis**

27.15 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.

27.16 A provision of Rs. 14579.07 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 and Rs. 2509.51 lacs for Annual Plan 2007-08

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

27.17 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.

27.18 A provision of Rs. 3575.00 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 and Rs. 715.00 lacs for Annual Plan 2007-08

### **Anganwari Welfare Fund**

27.19 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, 1.41 lakh women employed under ICDS will be benefited by providing membership of fund. Monthly contribution of Rs. 50/- for Aanganwari worker and 25/- for Sahyoginy and Helper has been decided. Thus, a sum of Rs.150/- for Worker and Rs.75/- for each Sahyoginy 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.

27.20 A provision of Rs. 702.93 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 and Rs. 140.49 lacs for Annual Plan 2007-08 as state share.

### **Construction of AWCs**

27.21 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 is 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



0

in a time bound manner with consistency. So during Eleventh Five Year Plan period 5000 AWC buildings will be constructed @ 1000 per annum.

27.22 A provision of Rs. 10395.01 lacs has been proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 and Rs. 1650.01 lacs for Annual Plan 2007-08.