

1) SCHEME: "NATIONAL MISSION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN"

1. **Background:**

The Committee of Governors (CoG) set up to study and recommend strategies for speedy socio-economic empowerment of women recommended the "Establishment of National Mission for socio-economic empowerment of Women". National Mission for Empowerment of Women was operationalised during the financial year 2011-12 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in April 2011. The focus was to bring convergence of efforts through inter-sectoral coordination amongst different ministries and programmes with Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) as the nodal for achieving holistic empowerment of women.

Following the restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) during the 12th Plan period, NMEW was approved for continuation as a sub-scheme of the Umbrella Scheme for Protection and Development of Women.

2. **Revised NMEW Scheme (12th Plan period):**

National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) aims to achieve holistic empowerment of women through convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Department of Government of India as well as State Governments. Under the revised Scheme, technical support to Ministry of Women and Child Development is being provided by domain experts who are involved in the implementation and monitoring of new initiatives of the Ministry like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP Scheme), One Stop Centres, Women Helpline etc. and also facilitates convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments with focus on women. At the national level experts engaged in the area of:

- a) poverty alleviation economic empowerment,
- b) health and nutrition,
- c) gender budgeting & gender mainstreaming,
- d) gender rights gender based violence and law enforcement,
- e) empowerment of vulnerable and marginalised groups,
- f) social empowerment & education,

- g) media and advocacy and
- h) information technology

The scheme aims strengthen the conceptual and programmatic basis of women centric schemes/programmes implemented by the MWCD, other Ministries and State Government with the mechanism for convergence. Training & Capacity Building to enhance and strengthen understanding of gender issues, build a Resource Pool (trainers) at the National and State level to bridge gaps between knowledge and practice will be the other focus area of NMEW.

3. Structure:

(National level)

A Steering Committee headed by Secretary, MWCD to provide overall guidance and monitoring has replaced the multi-layered structure (NMA, IMCC and CMC) approved during the 11th Plan for NMEW.

The Steering Committee is headed by Secretary, WCD with Additional Secretary, Women Welfare, Financial Adviser, MWCD and Joint Secretary, NMEW. Director, NMEW is the member Secretary.

NMEW Scheme is headed by Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary along with other regular positions (Director, Under Secretary and Section Officer). Knowledge Centres with domain based expertise will provide support to the Ministries/Departments both at the Centre and States/UTs for achieving holistic empowerment of women.

(State/Sub-state level)

- a. At the state level, the State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) under the State Government (department of WCD/Social Welfare) have been established to provide technical assistance towards implementing programmes, laws and schemes meant for women through effective coordination at the State/UT level. SRCW may review and evaluate existing policies, programmes and legislations so that activities which are cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary in nature synergise harmoniously to reach women beneficiaries. The SRCW has provision for five staff in the position of State Project Coordinator, Specialist

Gender, Specialist Training, Research Officer , and Assistant (training & documentation).

- b. In order to facilitate convergence of schemes/programs at the ground level, Poorna Shakti Kendra (PSK) project was conceived in a pilot mode in selected districts. The first pilot project to demonstrate convergence of programmes and schemes was launched in District Pali, Rajasthan on Sep 16, 2011. The project entails setting up of convergence centres at the district, block and Gram Panchayat (GP) level. The convergence centres are meant to facilitate greater access for women to government schemes/programs, create awareness on gender issues and facilitate/handholding of women in need/affected by violence. Each kendra at GP level has two Mahila Gram Samanvyaks (Village Coordinators) who act as motivators for the women in the area and are also responsible for providing support/facilitation on various issues that affect women's empowerment.
- c. With the learning from Poorna Shakti Kendra project, Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS) have been approved for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) districts and 200 high burden districts (affected by malnutrition) in the country. VCFS aims to create awareness through Village Coordinators on issues related to women and facilitate convergence & coordination with the Gram Panchayats (GPs).

4. Objective:

NMEW aims at strengthening the processes that promote holistic development of women, gender equality and gender justice through inter-sectoral convergence of programmes impacting women, forging synergy amongst various stakeholders and creating an enabling environment conducive to social change. It aims to:

- a) Strengthen efforts towards achieving empowerment of women through gender mainstreaming of policies and programs both at the central and at the State/UT level.
- b) Facilitate convergence of efforts through inter-sectoral coordination amongst different ministries and programmes with Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), which is the nodal ministry to meet the larger objective of overall development and empowerment of women.
- c) Convergence and outreach services for women will be provided in selected gender critical districts/malnutrition affected districts to enable greater awareness and access to schemes/programs meant for women and children. Mobilize the community to create demand and access/avail such services and be partners in implementation.
- d) Enhance understanding and sensitivity of various stakeholders on gender related issues through training and capacity building programs.
- e) Strive to integrate gender concerns into the training curriculum of the training institutes (administrative, academic, police, legal, health, skill development, rural development etc.). Prepare training modules for functionaries at various levels. Increase awareness levels on schemes and programmes of the Government, legal rights related to women

5. Key Strategies:

- Inter-sectoral convergence of schemes meant for women, monitor and review the progress on regular basis in collaboration with partner Ministries/Departments. Domain experts from NMEW will serve as link between MWCD and respective Ministries/Departments.
- Undertake research, evaluation studies, reviews of programmes and legislation, gender audit and outcome assessment to build evidence for policy intervention and programmatic reform.
- Strengthen institutional framework for support service for women through training and capacity building of frontline functionaries.
- With support from rural and urban local bodies and community groups garnish efforts to strengthen public education on gender, behaviour change and social mobilization.

6. Project Components:

- **Technical support to Ministry of Women and Child Development** with domain based expertise on various critical issues related to women. Facilitate inter-sectoral convergence action on women's and undertake specific convergence initiatives/ projects in association/consultation with different Ministries/Departments and host the Programme Management Unit of women centric schemes being implemented by MWCD. Undertake research on issues that affect gender equity and empowerment of women with the objective of policy/programmatic intervention.
- **State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW)** - SRCW to support initiatives at the State level for women's empowerment and as decided by the respective State Government/UT Administration.
- **Poorna Shakti Kendra (PSK)** projects implemented on a pilot basis in selected districts. It entails setting up of convergence centres at district/block and Gram Panchayat (GP level) to enhance access & utilization of schemes/programs meant for women.
- **Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS)** - Village/Panchayat level initiative for awareness generation and greater utilisation of women-related schemes/programmes of the Government through Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS).
- **Training and Capacity Building** initiatives both at the national and state level for better understanding of gender issues and to strengthen efforts towards addressing Violence against Women.

7. Coverage area:

All State/UTs will be covered under this Scheme through the SRCWs.

8. Implementing Agency:

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

9. Monitoring:

A Steering Committee headed by Secretary, MWCD to provide overall guidance and monitoring. Other members include Additional Secretary, MWCD, Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser, MWCD and Director, NMEW.

The District Collector/Magistrate in the district where the programmatic intervention under NMEW is being implemented will have the oversight role in monitoring the progress.

10. Funding Pattern:

The Scheme to have a cost sharing pattern between the Central Government and the States/UTs as 60:40, excepting in respect of North Eastern and Special Category States where the cost sharing ratio shall be 90:10.

