



THINK 2030

COLLECTING INSIGHTS FROM SELECTED
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES
OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
SAARC



NOTE FROM RESEARCHER

Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation through this research endeavoured to build a compendium of all government schemes and flagship programmes which focus on women's rights and entitlements. All the SAARC countries have been covered in this publication. However, there are limitations to this research as it has been wholly desk research, reviewing and culling out information from the government webpages of the different countries. Not all the webpages have in-depth information leaving the researcher with little information. Therefore, there is more scope of further research which can be done on all the countries.

This document is a living document and it will be updated with relevant information over the years.

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FOREWORD

Sustainable development goals are focusing on the barriers of faced by vulnerable communities and citizens of poor countries. Extreme poor women have a huge challenge in accessing benefits provided under various provisions of social welfare schemes. At a time women's empowerment, livelihood and security are major issues for the developing countries. They need adequate information about their rights and entitlements under constitutional provision and social policies. Extreme poor women deserve the opportunity to learn how to access facilities, concession provided under various schemes, develop the skills to manage their own resources or develop enterprises with products and services that meet their specific needs.

Sucheta Mukherjee, researcher of the compendium has compiled various social welfare schemes which have the provisions to address and support the cause of girl children about their education, health livelihood and security. This can be considered as a guiding note. I am hopeful that the compendium will be a supporting tool for organizations engaged in programmes like girl children education, health, livelihood, gender justice, women empowerment and security.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD¹

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by world leaders wherein in the next fifteen years, the countries will make all efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is more ambitious envisaging the eradication of poverty, the systematic tack-ling of climate change and building peaceful, resilient, equitable and inclusive societies.

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The end of poverty can only be achieved with the end of gender-based discrimination. All over the world, gender inequality makes and keeps women poor, depriving them of basic rights and opportunities for well-being.

More than 1.3 billion women don't have an account at a formal financial institution – this includes banks, cooperatives, credit unions, post offices or microfinance institutions.

Women make significant contributions every day from bringing an income to her household as an employed wage earner, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of her family and elders. However, a woman farmer, for instance, may not be able to make her crops thrive like a man can because she doesn't have the same access to seeds, credit, technology and extension services. She is very unlikely to own her land—only 20 per cent of landowners globally are women. If she hopes to someday inherit family property, the law may deprive her of an equal share, or social convention may simply favor her male relatives.

Women have a right to equal access to all avenues to end poverty, from social protection safety nets to use of the latest technology. Fully realizing that right will be key to achieving the first SDG.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Women prepare up to 90 per cent of meals in households around the world, yet when times are tough, women and girls may be the first to eat less. Households headed by women may not eat enough simply because women earn at lower levels, and are less prepared to cope with sudden crisis.

Nourishment is not just about the quantity of food, but its quality. In poor households, women can be less likely to get the nutrients they need, including to manage the physical demands of pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Inequities in food consumption stand in contrast to women's significant role in agricultural production. They comprise on average 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and over 50

1. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2322UN%20Women%20Analysis%20on%20Women%20and%20SDGs.pdf>
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

per cent in parts of Asia and Africa. Yet their potential contribution to food security remains constrained by unequal access to land and other productive assets.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every person. Gender-based discrimination, however, undercuts this right. It can render women more susceptible to sickness and less likely to obtain care, for reasons ranging from affordability to social conventions keeping them at home. Fulfilling the right to health requires health systems to become fully responsive to women and girls, offering higher quality, more comprehensive and readily accessible services.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

All developing regions of the world have achieved— or almost achieved — equal enrolment of boys and girls in primary school. This is an historic accomplishment, but far from complete. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 23 per cent of poor rural girls finish primary school. Gender gaps widen significantly in many countries in secondary and tertiary schools.

Education is a right. It empowers individuals to increase their well-being and contributes to broader social and economic gains.

The adult literacy rate has risen to 85% in 1990 from 76% in 2013. But women account for over 60% of the world's illiterate.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution. Goal 5 is known as the stand-alone gender goal because it is dedicated to achieving these ends.

As of 2014, 143 countries out of 195 guarantees equality between women and men in their constitutions, yet discrimination against women persists in many areas, both directly as well as indirectly. Gender equality before the law does not necessarily mean that, women in practise have equal opportunities.

In 1993, the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women provided a framework for action on the pandemic, but after more than 20 years later, 1 in 3 women still face physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.

133 million girls and women have faced female genital mutilation in 29 countries in Africa and Middle East.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

A drink of water sustains human life, but only if it is safe and affordable. From 1990 to 2015, 2.6 billion people gained access to improved drinking water, but 663 million still rely on unimproved sources like unprotected wells and springs. Water quality has deteriorated through pollution, and worsening scarcity pressures over 40 per cent of the global population.

For women, inadequate water supplies pose additional burdens. In a single day in 25 sub-Saharan African countries, women spend 16 million hours collecting water, often to the detriment of schooling or paid work, and with potential health risks from repeatedly carrying heavy burdens over long distances.

2 billion people have gained access to clean drinking water from 1990 to 2010, but women still spend 16 million hours per day collecting water in 25 sub-saharan countries.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Sustainable modern energy fuels development, from the light that allows a child to do her homework to streetlamps allowing women to travel safely home at night. Universal access requires energy to be affordable and reliable.

In households, women are often the primary energy managers. When modern sources are not available, they spend hours each day collecting fuel to cook and heat their homes. Many suffer poor health through indoor air pollution generated, for example, by a rudimentary stove that smokes heavily as it burns wood or animal dung.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

An inclusive, sustainable economy fosters growth with benefits for all. It does not harm the environment, and uses resources judiciously so they will remain for generations to come. For many people, employment is the entry point for economic well-being. In an inclusive economy, decent work means a living wage, workplace safety and protection against discrimination.

50% of the world's working age women (15 or over) are in labour force compared to over 75% of working age men. Also women earn 24% less than men.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Investments in research and development will be key, but most researchers are still men — women account for only 25 per cent in more advanced Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. Similarly, the construction, manufacturing and energy businesses, with few women employees and decision-makers, fall far short of gender balance. From the factory floor to the high-tech lab, women must have equal opportunities in building a shared, sustainable future.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Inequalities have widened across and within many countries, even amid high rates of economic growth. Disparities, caused by practices within countries and in the global economy, are unjust and weaken the social fabric.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Cities and human settlements can be safe, prosperous, equitable and pleasant places to live.

But not without including every citizen in their development. All elements of urban governance, planning and finance need to actively embed gender equality measures. And women deserve equal roles in making decisions about an ever more urban world.

Disasters such as droughts, floods and storms kill more women than men due to structural gender inequalities.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The world of waste coexists with a world of want. There, people consume barely enough to survive. A safe and sustainable future depends on reducing extremes. Women in consumption and production must have equal access to means such as land and technology that can boost their standard of living. Women at large must assume equal leadership in striking a better balance—in parliaments and boardrooms, in their communities and families.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change poses growing risks. Catastrophic storms destroy lives and homes. Droughts pressure rural livelihoods. Sea level rise threatens low-lying areas. The most vulnerable people are most at risk from climate change, including many poor women. For them, the impacts are already a daily reality. Many spend increasingly long hours hunting for food, fuel and water, or struggling to grow crops. When disasters strike, women are far more likely to perish.

as stewards of many natural resources, women can offer valuable insights into better managing the climate and its risks. They also have a right to all capacities needed to protect themselves, and to participate in decisions with profound implications for people and the planet.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Women make up 47 per cent of the world's 120 million people working in fisheries and outnumber men in both large-scale marine fisheries (66 per cent) and small-scale inland fisheries (54 per cent). And yet, women are largely concentrated in low-skilled, lowpaid jobs with irregular, seasonal employment in processing, packaging and marketing. They often work without contracts or health, safety and labour rights protections. Women also earn approximately 64 per cent of men's wages for the same work in aquaculture.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Globally, forests have been cut at devastatingly fast rates, often for profits that bypass local communities. It undercuts resources that sustain environmental health and human wellbeing. Women can be among the first and most affected, often charged with making up shortfalls in food and fuel. Their limited ownership of land reduces their capacity to adapt to losses or make decisions about how land is used—for the benefit of themselves and the environment.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

In 2000, the pioneering UN Security Council resolution 1325 recognised that war impacts women differently and stressed the need to increase women's participation in peace talks. But from 1992 to 2011 only 9% of negotiators at peace tables were women.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The SDGs will mean little without the means to implement them. Finance, technology, capacities, partnerships and data are among the primary tools. Success also depends on a stable global economy and the ability of each country to make policy choices aimed at achieving all of the goals.

Gender equality is central to all of the SDGs, but often, women end up on the short end of the means of implementation, in whatever form. While governments increasingly use gender-responsive budgeting to direct funds to programmes that benefit women, these exercises have revealed huge funding gaps in what women need—up to 90 per cent. Only 5 per cent of foreign aid funds had gender equality as a principle objective in 2012-2013. Just around a third of countries have an office for gender statistics, even though data distinguished according to gender is critical to defining the best ways to achieve gender equality. Many countries simply do not know, for instance, how many women lack clean water or face abuse within their homes.



INDIA FACTSHEET

Gender and Social Exclusion Indicators

Gender Related Indicators			2011
1	Gender Inequality Index (GII)		0.617
2	GII Rank out of 146		129
		1996	2006
3	Gender Related Development Index (GDI)	0.514	0.590
4	Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)	0.416	0.497
5	Index of 'Political Participation & Decision-making Power'	0.573	0.625
6	Index of 'Economic Participation and Decision-making Power'	0.443	0.546
7	Index of 'Power over Economic Resources'	0.231	0.319
		2000	2010
8	Rate of Cognizable crimes against women (%)	14.1	18
		2004-06	2007-09
9	Maternal Mortality Ratio (Per 1,00,000 live births)	254	212
		1992-93	2007-08
10	Proportions of Births attended by skilled health professional (%)	33	52
		2001	2011
11	Male Literacy rate	75.3	82.14
12	Female Literacy rate	53.7	65.46
13	Gender Gap in Literacy	21.6	16.68
		1991	2001
14	Literacy rates for SC	37.41	54.69
15	Literacy rates for SC (Male)	49.91	66.64
16	Literacy rates for SC (Female)	23.67	41.9
17	Literacy rates for ST	29.6	47.1
18	Literacy rates for ST (Male)	40.65	59.17
19	Literacy rates for ST (Female)	18.19	47.1
		2000	2011
20	Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament (%)	8.9	10.7
		1990-91	2007-08
21	Gender Parity Index for education (Primary)	0.76	0.98
22	Gender Parity Index for education (Secondary)	0.6	0.85
23	Gender Parity Index for education (Tertiary)	0.54	0.7
Development Indicators for Social Groups		2000	2004-05
24	Human Development Index for SC	0.303	0.328
25	Human Development Index for ST	0.27	0.27
26	Human Poverty Index for SC	41.47	46.88
27	Human Poverty Index for ST	47.79	54.56
			2005
28	Multidimensional Poverty Index for SC		0.361
29	Multidimensional Poverty Index for SC		0.482
30	Multidimensional Poverty Headcount Ratio for SC (%)		65.80
31	Multidimensional Poverty Headcount Ratio for ST (%)		81.40

- ▶ Improvements seen in gender based human development indices, with GDI and GEM showing a 14.8% and 19.5% improvement respectively. However crimes committed against women have increased over time.
- ▶ Progress seen on maternal health indicators but wide scope for improvement exists.
- ▶ Human development indicators are much lower for SC and ST. Value of HDI is 29 % lower for SC and 54 % lower for ST than for Non SC/ST communities.
- ▶ Multidimensional poverty among SC and ST is alarmingly high with over 2/3rd of SC and over 3/4th of ST population deemed multidimensionally poor.

Indicator No. Source

1-2	Human Development Report 2011, UNDP, http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/
3-7	Gendering Human Development Indices: Recasting GDI and GEM for India 2009, Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI and UNDP, http://undp.org.in/sites/default/files/GDI_and_GEM_Report.pdf
8	Crime in India 2000 and 2010, Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI, http://ncrb.nic.in/CII2010/home.htm
9	Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2007-09, SRS, June 2011 http://www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics/SRS_Bulletins/Final-MMR%20Bulletin-2007-09_070711.pdf
10	Millennium Development Goals: India Country Report 2011, CSO http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/upload/MDG_2010_01jan12.pdf
11-13	Census 2001 and Census 2011, Provisional Population Totals Paper 1 of 2011 India series1, Registrar General of India, http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/prov_results_paper1_india.html
14-19	Planning Commission for 2001 and National Literacy Mission for 1991 http://planningcommission.nic.in/sectors/sj/Literacy%20of%20SCs_STs.doc and http://www.nlm.nic.in/tables/f_scst.htm
20	Human Development Report 2011 and Human Development Report 2000, UNDP, http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/ and http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2000/
21-23	Millennium Development Goals: India Country Report 2011, CSO http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/upload/MDG_2010_01jan12.pdf
24-27	Human Poverty and Socially Disadvantaged Groups in India, UNDP discussion paper 18, 2007 and Human Development and Human Poverty Across Social Groups: An Update, UNDP Discussion Paper (mimeo) 2010
28-31	OPHI India Country Brief 2010 on Multidimensional Poverty, http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Country-Brief-India.pdf

BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP) SCHEME²

The Government of India initiated Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme to address the critical and alarming issue of decline in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in 100 gender critical districts.

Objective of the scheme

- ▶ Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination
- ▶ Ensuring survival and protection of the girl child
- ▶ Ensuring education and participation of the girl child

Major components of the scheme

1. Mass communication campaign
 - ▶ The main goal of the campaign is to ensure girls are born, nurtured, educated and are not discriminated so that they become empowered and responsible citizens.
2. Multi sectoral interventions in 100 gender critical districts covering all states/union territories
 - ▶ Coordinated efforts are undertaken by different government ministries (Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development) to ensure survival, protection as well as education of the girl child.

ONE STOP CENTRE

Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for settling up One Stop Centre. These centres provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in public as well as private spaces. The services provided are – medical assistance, police assistance, psycho-social support/counselling, legal aid/counselling, shelter and video conferencing facility.

WOMEN HELPLINE

The Scheme of Universalisation of Women Helpline is intended to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking with appropriate authority such as police, One Stop Centre, hospital) and information about women related government schemes programs across the country through a single uniform number.

Women Helpline (WHL) will be integrated with One Stop Centre Scheme (OSC) under which one OSC shall be established in every State/UT to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof.

Objectives

- ▶ To provide toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women affected by violence seeking support and information.
- ▶ To facilitate crisis and non-crisis intervention through referral to the appropriate agencies such as police/Hospitals/Ambulance services/District Legal Service Authority (DLSA)/Protection Officer (PO)/OSC.
- ▶ To provide information about the appropriate support services, government schemes and programmes available to the woman affected by violence, in her particular situation within the local area in which she resides or is employed.

2. <http://www.wcd.nic.in/schemes/>

It will be universalised through short code 181 number by augmenting/ using the infrastructure of existing helplines working at the State/ UT level.

UJJAWALA: A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME FOR PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING AND RESCUE, REHABILITATION AND RE-INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is an organized crime that violates basic human rights. India has emerged as a source, destination and transit for both in-country and cross border trafficking. The problem of trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is especially challenging due to its myriad complexities and variation. Poverty, low status of women, lack of a protective environment etc. are some of the causes for trafficking.

Objective of the scheme

- ▶ To prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes, generate public discourse through workshops/seminars and such events and any other innovative activity.
- ▶ To facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
- ▶ To provide rehabilitation services both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.
- ▶ To facilitate reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large.
- ▶ To facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL

Working women hostel is a scheme to provide safe and affordable accommodation to working women. The objective of the scheme is to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day care facility for their children, wherever possible, in urban, semi urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist. To achieve this objective, the scheme will assist projects for construction of new hostel buildings, expansion of existing hostel buildings and hostel buildings in rented premises. While the projects assisted under this scheme are meant for working women, women under training for job may also be accommodated in such hostels subject to the condition that taken together, such trainees should not occupy more than 30% of the total capacity the hostel and they may be accommodated in the hostels only when adequate numbers of working women are not available. Children of working women, up to the age of 18 years for girls and up to the age of 5 years for boys may be accommodated in such hostel with their mothers.

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS

It has become necessary to provide support to the young children in terms of quality, substitute care and other services while the mothers are at work. A crèche is a facility which enables parents to leave their children while they are at work and where children are provided stimulating environment for their holistic

development. Crèches are designed to provide group care to children, usually up to 6 years of age, who need care, guidance and supervision away from their home during the day.

Objective of the scheme

- ▶ To provide day-care facilities for children (6 months to 6 years) of working mothers in the community.
- ▶ To improve nutrition and health status of children.
- ▶ To promote physical, cognitive, social and emotional development (Holistic Development) of children.
- ▶ To educate and empower parents /caregivers for better childcare.

Services provided by the scheme

- ▶ Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
- ▶ Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and Pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
- ▶ Supplementary Nutrition(to be locally sourced)
- ▶ Growth Monitoring.
- ▶ Health Check-up and Immunization.

SWADHAR GREH

Swadhar Greh is a scheme that caters to primary needs of women in difficult circumstances. The scheme envisions a supportive institutional framework for women victims of difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction. It envisages that shelter, food, clothing, and health as well as economic and social security are assured for such women. It also envisions that the special needs of these women are properly taken care of and under no circumstances they should be left unattended or abandoned which could lead to their exploitation and desolation.

Under the Scheme , Swadhar Greh will be set up in every district with capacity of 30 women with the following objectives:

- ▶ To cater to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in distress and who are without any social and economic support.
- ▶ To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.
- ▶ To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.
- ▶ To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally.
- ▶ To act as a support system that understands and meets various requirements of women in distress.
- ▶ To enable them to start their life afresh with dignity and conviction.

The objectives cited above would be pursued adopting the following strategies:

- ▶ Temporary residential accommodation with the provision of food, clothing, medical facilities etc.
- ▶ Vocational and skill up gradation trainings for economic rehabilitation of such women
- ▶ Counseling, awareness generation and behavioral trainings
- ▶ Legal aid and Guidance
- ▶ Counseling through telephone

The benefit of the component could be availed by women above 18 years of age of the following categories:

- ▶ Women who are deserted and are without any social and economic support;

- ▶ Women survivors of natural disasters who have been rendered homeless and are without any social and economic support;
- ▶ Women prisoners released from jail and are without family, social and economic support;
- ▶ Women victims of domestic violence, family tension or discord, who are made to leave their homes without any means of subsistence and have no special protection from exploitation and/ or facing litigation on account of marital disputes; and
- ▶ Trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or other places where they face exploitation and Women affected by HIV/AIDS who do not have any social or economic support. However such women/ girls should first seek assistance under UJJAWALA Scheme in areas where it is in operation.

Women affected by domestic violence could stay up to one year. For other categories of women, the maximum period of stay could be up to 3 years. The older women above the 55 years of age may be accommodated for maximum period of 5 years after which they will have to shift to old age homes or similar institutions.

Swadhar Greh facilities could also be availed by the children accompanying women in the above categories. Girls up to the age of 18 years and boys up to the age of 8 years would be allowed to stay in the Swadhar Greh with their mothers. (Boys of more than 8 years of age need to be shifted to the Children Homes run under JJ Act/ICPS.)

SUPPORT TO TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN (STEP)

The STEP Scheme aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country. The grant under the Scheme is given to an institution/ organisation including NGOs directly and not the States/ UTs. The assistance under STEP Scheme will be available in any sector for imparting skills related to employability and entrepreneurship, including but not limited to the Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Zari etc, Handicrafts, Computer & IT enable services along with soft skills and skills for the work place such as spoken English, Gems & Jewellery, Travel & Tourism, Hospitality.

RAJIV GANDHI SCHEME FOR EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS (RGSEAG) – SABLA³

SABLA aims to empower adolescent girls of 11 to 18 years by improving their nutritional and health status, up gradation of home skills, life skills and vocational skills. The girls are equipped with information on health and family welfare, hygiene and guidance on existing public services. The scheme also aims to mainstream out of school girls into formal education or non-formal education.

The scheme is implemented using the platform of ICDS scheme through Anganwadi centres.

Objectives

- ▶ Enable the AGs for self-development and empowerment.
- ▶ Improve their nutrition and health status.

3. <http://wcd.nic.in/schemes/rajiv-gandhi-scheme-empowerment-adolescent-girls-rgseag-sabla>

- ▶ Promote awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) and family and child care.
- ▶ Upgrade their home-based skills, life skills and tie up with National Skill Development Program (NSDP) for vocational skills.
- ▶ Mainstream out of school AGs into formal/non formal education vi. Provide information/guidance about existing public services such as PHC, CHC, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

Services that are provided under the scheme

- ▶ Nutrition provision
- ▶ Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation
- ▶ Health check-up and Referral services
- ▶ Nutrition & Health Education (NHE)
- ▶ Counseling/Guidance on family welfare, ARSH, child care practices and home management
- ▶ Life Skill Education and accessing public services
- ▶ Vocational training for girls aged 16 and above under National Skill Development Program (NSDP)

RASHTRIYA MAHILA KOSH⁴

The aims and objectives of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh are to undertake activities for the promotion of credit as an instrument of socio-economic change and development through the provision of package of financial and social development services, to demonstrate and replicate participatory approaches in the organization of women's groups for effective utilization of credit resources leading to self-reliance, to promote and support experiments in the voluntary and formal sector using innovative methodologies, to promote research, study, documentation and analysis, to promote the federation and networking of women's organisations for shaping & exchange of experience and information and to develop skills in response management & social mobilization, to promote and support the expansion of entrepreneurship skills among women, and promote and support grassroot level societies and organisations and other participatory structures for providing for women effective access to decision making.

NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)⁵

The National Social Assistance Programme has five sub-schemes:

1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

The eligible age of IGNOAPS is 60 years. The pension is Rs 200 per month for persons between 60 and 79 years of age. For persons who are 80 years and above the pension is Rs 500 per month.

2. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)

The eligible age is 40 years and the pension is Rs 300 per month. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary will get Rs 500 per month.

3. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)

The eligible age for the pensioner is 18 years and above and the disability level has to be 80%. The amount is Rs.300 per month and after attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary will get Rs.500/- per month. Dwarfs will also be an eligible category for this pension.

4. <http://rmk.nic.in/>

5. http://nsap.nic.in/Guidelines/nsap_guidelines_oct2014.pdf

4. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

Rs. 20000/- will be given as a lumpsum assistance to the bereaved household in the event of death of the bread-winner. It is clarified that any event of death (natural or otherwise) would make the family eligible for assistance. A woman in the family, who is a home maker, is also considered as a 'bread-winner' for this purpose. The family benefit will be paid to such surviving member of the household of the deceased poor, who after local inquiry, is found to be the head of the household.

5. Annapurna Scheme

10 kgs of food grains (wheat or rice) is given per month per beneficiary. The scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirements of those eligible old aged persons who have remained uncovered under the IGNOAPS.

VANBANDHU KALYAN YOJANA⁶

Under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of the tribal people. It envisages to ensure that all the intended benefits of goods and services under various programmes/schemes of Central as well as State Governments actually reach the target groups by convergence of resources through appropriate institutional mechanism.

Components of Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana:

- ▶ Qualitative and sustainable employment
- ▶ Quality education and higher education
- ▶ Accelerated Economic Development of tribal areas
- ▶ Health for all
- ▶ Housing for all
- ▶ Safe Drinking Water for all at doorsteps
- ▶ Irrigation facilities suited to the terrain
- ▶ All Weather Roads with connectivity to the nearby town/cities
- ▶ Universal Availability of Electricity
- ▶ Urban Development
- ▶ Robust institutional mechanism. (ITDAs/ITDPs)
- ▶ Promotion and conservation of Tribal Cultural Heritage
- ▶ Promotion of Sports in Tribal Areas

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT⁷

The objective of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Program is to enhance the livelihood security of the people in the rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Entitlements under MGNREGA

- ▶ Right to a Job Card
- ▶ Right to demand and receive work within 15 days

6. <http://vky.tribal.nic.in/>

7. <http://www.nrega.nic.in/netnrega/>

- ▶ Right to unemployment allowance
- ▶ Right to plan and prepare a shelf of projects
- ▶ Right to obtain work within 5km radius
- ▶ Right to worksite facilities
- ▶ Right to notified wage rate and right to receive wages within 15 days
- ▶ Compensation for delay in payment of wages
- ▶ Right to time bound redress of grievances, right to conduct concurrent social audits of all Mahatma Gandhi NREGA expenditure

Skilling under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA: Project for Livelihoods in Full Employment (Project: LIFE: Mahatma Gandhi NREGA)

Some of the salient feature of the project:

- ▶ The Project shall identify the youth in families dependent mostly on MGNREGA for their livelihood, skill them/improve their livelihood asset base in convergence with National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)
- ▶ Youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years (45 years in case of women, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Persons with Disability, Transgender, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Special Groups), from the rural households whose members have completed at least 15 days of work under MGNREGA in the previous financial year, shall be eligible for livelihood interventions. However, priority will be given to households that have completed 100 days of work under MGNREGA in the previous financial year.

NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION⁸

The mission of National Rural Livelihood Mission is 'to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots institutions of the poor". NRLM aims to alleviate rural poverty and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the rural poor. NRLM seeks to promote sustainable community based institutions which will facilitate provision of financial services, economic services and other entitlements to the rural poor.

The main components of NRLM

1. Institutional building and capacity building
 - ▶ Harnessing latent potential of rural poor
 - ▶ Universal social mobilization
 - ▶ Building institutions of the poor
 - ▶ Building capacities

2. Financial inclusion
 - ▶ Making poor preferred clients of financial institutions
 - ▶ Capitalizing institutions of the poor
 - ▶ Access to credit
 - ▶ SHG credit linkage

3. Livelihoods promotion
 - ▶ Transforming lives

8. Details taken from <http://aajeevika.gov.in>

- ▶ Vulnerability reduction and livelihood enhancement
- ▶ Thematic interventions (sustainable agriculture, Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP))
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Self Employment

4. Social inclusion and development

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA⁹

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) announced the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) Antyodaya Diwas, on 25th September 2014. DDU-GKY is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.

DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families. As a part of the Skill India campaign, it plays an instrumental role in supporting the social and economic programs of the government like the Make In India, Digital India, Smart Cities and Start-Up India, Stand-Up India campaigns.

PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)¹⁰

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme is a credit linked subsidy programme launched by Ministry of MSME for creation of employment in both rural and urban areas of the country.

Objectives of the programme

- ▶ To generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through setting up of new selfemployment ventures/projects/micro enterprises.
- ▶ To bring together widely dispersed traditional artisans/ rural and urban unemployed youth and give them self-employment opportunities to the extent possible, at their place.
- ▶ To provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans and rural and urban unemployed youth in the country, so as to help arrest migration of rural youth to urban areas.
- ▶ To increase the wage earning capacity of artisans and contribute to increase in the growth rate of rural and urban employment.

Some key eligibility criterion

- ▶ Any individual, above 18 years of age
- ▶ There will be no income ceiling for assistance for setting up projects under PMEGP
- ▶ For setting up of project costing above Rs.10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the business /service sector, the beneficiaries should possess at least VIII standard pass educational qualification.
- ▶ Assistance under the Scheme is available only for new projects sanctioned specifically under the PMEGP.

9. <http://ddugky.gov.in/>

10. Details taken from <http://www.kviconline.gov.in/pmegp/pmegpweb/index.html>

- ▶ Self Help Groups (including those belonging to BPL provided that they have not availed benefits under any other Scheme) are also eligible for assistance under PMEGP.

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAAS YOJANA¹¹

It is flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development has since inception been providing assistance to BPL families who are either houseless or having inadequate housing facilities for constructing a safe and durable shelter. This effort has been part of a larger strategy of the Ministry's poverty eradication effort, supporting the development of an environmentally sound habitat with adequate provisions for incremental expansion and improvement.

The financial assistance provided for new construction in the form of grant is Rs 45,000 per unit for the plain areas and Rs 48,500 for the hilly /difficult areas. The assistance for upgradation of unserviceable kutch house to pucca semi-pucca house is Rs15,000. The assistance for credit-cum-subsidy scheme is Rs 12,500 per unit. The beneficiary can avail top up loan upto Rs 20,000 under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI Scheme) from any nationalised bank at an interest rate of 4% per annum.

Allotment of dwelling unit is done in the name of female member of the beneficiary household. Alternatively, it is allotted in the name of both husband and wife. Only when there is no female member in the family, the house is allotted in the name of the male member.

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (ICDS)¹²

ICDS represents one of the world's largest and most unique programmes for early childhood development. ICDS is the foremost symbol of India's commitment to her children – India's response to the challenge of providing pre-school education on one hand and breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity and mortality, on the other. The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Objective of the scheme

- ▶ To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- ▶ To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- ▶ To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- ▶ To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- ▶ To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

Services under ICDS

- ▶ Supplementary nutrition
- ▶ Pre-school non formal education
- ▶ Nutrition and health education
- ▶ Immunization
- ▶ Health check up and
- ▶ Referral services

11. <http://rural.nic.in/sites/downloads/programmes-schemes/>

12. <http://icds-wcd.nic.in/icds/>

The last three services are related to health and are provided by Ministry/Department of Health and Family Welfare through NRHM & Health system.

Mid day MEAL¹³

The programme envisages enhanced enrolment, retention and attendance in schools and simultaneously contribute towards improving nutritional levels among children.

Couple of key features of the program

- ▶ To ensure balanced and nutritious diet to children of upper primary group the quantity of pulses will be 30 grams, vegetables 75 grams and the quantity of oil and fat to be used is 7.5 grams.
- ▶ Cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) is Rs. 2.50 for primary and Rs. 3.75 for upper primary children, this will facilitate serving meal to eligible children in prescribed quantity and of good quality .The cooking cost for primary is Rs. 2.69 per child per day and Rs. 4.03 for upper primary children.

SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN¹⁴

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is operational to provide for a variety of interventions for universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary education and improving the quality of learning. Its interventions include opening of new schools and alternate schooling facilities, construction of schools and additional classrooms, toilets and drinking water, provisioning for teachers, regular teacher in service training and academic resource support, free textbooks& uniforms and support for improving learning achievement levels / outcome. As equity is in focus, residential schools for girls known as the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas have been set up, identification of children with special needs and providing them need based support including aids and appliances; monitoring and supervision for making schools effective and building local level accountability by engaging with community based organisations.

SSA provides for free textbooks to all girl- children upto a limit of Rs.150/- per child at primary level and Rs.250/- per child at upper primary level. However, if there are any savings after providing for free text books to the girls, the balance money out of this amount may be used for providing additional items such as stationery, slates, work books, uniform, providing escorts in difficult areas, etc.

INDIRA GANDHI MATRITVA SAHYOG YOJANA (IGMSY)¹⁵

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana is for pregnant and lactating women. The scheme attempts to partly compensate for wage loss to Pregnant & lactating women both prior to and after delivery of the child.

Objectives of the scheme

- ▶ Improve the health and nutrition status of pregnant, lactating women and infants by:
- ▶ Promoting appropriate practices, care and service utilisation during pregnancy, safe delivery and lactation
- ▶ Encouraging the women to follow (optimal) Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices including early and exclusive breast feeding for six months
- ▶ Contributing to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers

13. <http://mdm.nic.in/>

14. <http://ssashagun.nic.in/>

15. <http://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/IGMSYscheme.pdf>

Pregnant Women of 19 years of age and above for first live births are entitled for benefits under the scheme. The beneficiaries will be paid Rs.4000/ in three instalments per Pregnant & Lactating women between the second trimester till the child attains the age of 6 months on fulfilling specific conditions related to maternal and child health to partly compensate for wage loss to mothers/women during pregnancy and period of lactation.

Anganwadi worker (AVWJ) and Anganwadi helper (AWH) would receive an incentive of RS.200/- and Rs. 100/- respectively per Pregnant & Lactating woman after all the due cash transfers to the beneficiary are complete.

Scholarships

1. Centrally sponsored national means-cum-merit scholarship scheme¹⁶

The objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage. Scholarship of Rs. 6000/- per annum (Rs.500/- per month) per student is awarded to selected students every year for study in classes from IX to XII in State Government, Government aided and local body schools. There is quota of scholarships for different states/UTs. Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 1,50,000/- are eligible to avail the scholarships. There is reservation as per State Government norms. The selection of student's award of the scholarships is made through an examination conducted by the State Governments. Scholarships are disbursed by the State Bank of India directly into the bank accounts of students on quarterly basis.

2. Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education”¹⁷

To promote enrolment of girl child in the age group of 14-18 at secondary stage, especially those who passed Class VIII and to encourage the secondary education of such girls, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education was launched. The Scheme covers:

- ▶ All SC/ST girls who pass class VIII and
- ▶ Girls, who pass class VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (irrespective of whether they belong to Scheduled Castes or Tribes) and enroll for class IX in State/UT Government, Government-aided or local body schools.
- ▶ Girls should be below 16 years of age (as on 31st March) on joining class IX
- ▶ Married girls, girls studying in private un-aided schools and enrolled in schools run by Central Government like KVS, NVS and CBS affiliated Schools are excluded.

A sum of Rs. 3,000/- is deposited in the name of eligible girls as fixed deposit. The girls are entitled to withdraw the sum along with interest thereon on reaching 18 years of age and on passing 10th class examination.

16. <http://mhrd.gov.in/nmms>

17. <http://mhrd.gov.in/incentives>

SRI LANKA¹⁸

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	0.5
Urban population (%)	2015	18.4
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	0.8
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	2.1
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	78.0/71.2
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	51
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	Mid-2015	38.7/0.2 Including refugees.
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2014	1527 Excluding nationals residing abroad.
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	Mid-2015	51808 The statistics of the remaining IDPs as at mid-2015, while provided by the Government authorities at the district level, are being reviewed by the central authorities. Once this review has been concluded, the statistics will be changed accordingly.
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	8
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	3.5
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	1.6 2013.
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	100.1/102.4
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	102.0/97.5 2013
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	24.7/16.6
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	2.9 2013
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	5.8

18. <http://www.childwomenmin.gov.lk/English/services/women-s-affairs>

THERE ARE FOLLOWING INSTITUTES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD AFFAIRS:

1. Women's Bureau

a) Main Development Programme

- ▶ Programme for providing a glass of fresh milk for preschool children
- ▶ Programme for the provision of a nutrition allowance of Rs 20,000 for pregnant mothers
- ▶ Project for the prevention of child abuse and violence against women

2. Social Empowering Units for Women

- ▶ Women counselling programme
- ▶ Establish a women shelter
- ▶ Programme for minimize violence against women and prevention of human trafficking
- ▶ Estate financial management programme
- ▶ Skill development programme for teenage girl
- ▶ Empowering women organizational network
- ▶ Social empowerment of imprisoned women

National Committee on Women

The mission of the committee is to ensure and promote rights of Sri Lankan women, stabilise equality, assist and guide to formulate legal framework for their utmost development.

Objectives of the Committee

- ▶ Receive complaints on cases relating to gender, investigate them and refer the related cases to appropriate authorities, persons or institutions for necessary actions
- ▶ Refer complaints, legal aids or arbitrations related to infringements of provisions in the Cabinet approved Women's Charter to governmental, non-governmental or to any other organizations for action
- ▶ Following up such actions, obtaining annual progress reports from the related administrative authorities and taking action to make those reports public in the country.
- ▶ Appraising effects brought about by legal and development policies on rights/bindings of women as highlighted in the Charter.
- ▶ Helping to realize aims of the Charter by motivating researches concerned and provide recommendations for revisions based on those researches.
- ▶ Directing to implement matters, as felt fit by the Committee, brought to the attention of the Committee by the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject of women.

Women Help Line – 1938 faster response for the protection of women

This has been established with the objectives of providing assistance and relief for the receiving complaints related to all forms of discrimination against women, defilement of the rights of women, harassment and all kinds of abusive circumstances. Receiving all above complaints, studying of complaints and referring to government, non-government agencies and relevant persons for the assistance and relief, directing for the counselling and legal aid services as per the complainer's personal requirement and nature of the problem are the main services of the women help line 1938 is operated every weekday from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and relevant measures have been taken to operationalize this for 24 hours.

EMPOWERING SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES THROUGH SELF-EMPLOYMENT¹⁹

The objective of this programme is to improve living standards of the under privileged Sri Lankan citizens who have become single parents due to spouse and children being deserted by their partners or demise of spouse by assisting them in tackling their economic difficulties.

Selection of beneficiaries

- ▶ Women with underage children and school-going children, who have become vulnerable due to terrorist activities, communal war situation, accidents, suicides or untimely death of their husbands.
- ▶ For families of which wife and children have been deserted by husband or, husband and underage children have been deserted by wife.
- ▶ For those women who are not legally married but have underage children and school-going children and without sufficient means of income to satisfy the needs of these children.

LOW INCOME FAMILIES - DIVINEGUMA DEVELOPMENT

The main objective in establishing this Department is the eradication of poverty and the creation of a society ensuring social justice, through the promotion of livelihood economic development activities centered on the individual, the family, the group and the community.

NEPAL²⁰

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	1.2
Urban population (%)	2015	18.6
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	3.2
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	2.3
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	70.5/67.6
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	62
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	mid-2015	518.3/1.8 Including refugees.
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2014	790 Including arrivals from India.
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	mid-2015	36753 Various studies estimate that a large number of individuals lack citizenship certificates in Nepal. While these individuals are not all necessarily stateless, UNHCR has been working closely with the Government of Nepal and partners to address this situation.

19. <http://www.childwomenmin.gov.lk/English/services/women-s-affairs>

20. <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Nepal#Social>

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	32
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	5.8
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	4.7
Education: Primary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	140.6/130.1
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	68.9/64.9 Estimate.
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	15.3/18.7 2013
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	2.9 2011
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	29.5

Constitution of Nepal has duly internalized and integrated the issues of women's rights and gender equality by eliminating all forms of discrimination against women through clear provisions. Parliament has incorporated in the Constitution, the policies regarding social justice and inclusion with substantive lines of actions on women's issues including:

- ▶ Making appropriate arrangements of livelihoods by prioritizing employment for single women who are in helpless conditions on the basis of skill, capability and merit.
- ▶ Making women self reliant who are vulnerable, victims of conflict, excluded by family and the society, by making necessary arrangements of rehabilitation, protection and empowerment for them.
- ▶ Ensuring the use of necessary services and facilities during the reproductive stage.

The Constitution has made separate provision of 'Rights of Women', and guaranteed as of the following:

- ▶ Every woman shall have equal right to lineage without any gender discriminations.
- ▶ Every woman shall have the right relating to safe motherhood and reproductive health.
- ▶ There shall not be any physical, mental, sexual or psychological or any other kind of violence against women, or any kind of oppression based on religious, social and cultural tradition, and other practices. Such an act shall be punishable by law and the victim shall have the rights to be compensation as provided for in law.
- ▶ Women shall have the right to access participate in all state structures and bodies on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion.
- ▶ Women shall have the right to special opportunity in the spheres of education, health, employment and social security on the basis of positive discrimination;
- ▶ Both the spouses shall have equal rights in the property of family affairs.

For prevention of harmful traditional practices, in general, and violence against women and girls (VAWG), in particular, Nepal has been working at different levels of national campaigns including:

- a) Strengthening individual knowledge and skills
- b) Promoting community education through media and community based organizations

- c) Educating providers and relevant professionals
- d) Engaging, strengthening and mobilizing communities
- e) Changing organizational practices
- f) Influencing policies and legislation

The Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2009 and the accompanying Rules, 2010 have been put into force for effective implementation by authorizing local authorities, the Nepal Police, all the competent courts and the NWC to receive complaints of domestic violence.

The 100% Girl's Scholarship Program (GSP) has been the key intervention of GoN in fulfilling the commitment of ensuring marginalized and disadvantaged girls' access to education.

To eradicate illiteracy among women, literacy programs and continuous education has helped to reduce the illiteracy among women with a particular focus on adult literacy, women's literacy and functional literacy. As a result, almost the entire population in the age group of 10-14 years is literate. "Welcome to school" campaigns, scholarship for girls, child grants, mid-day meals, employment, and special scholarship for 'Kamlari' have increased the school Net Enrolment Rate (NER) which ultimately contributed to increasing literacy among women and girls. Various non-formal educational initiatives are also contributing to increased literacy among women in girls in rural areas.

PAKISTAN²¹

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.1
Urban population (%)	2015	38.8
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.8
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	3.7
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	66.8/65.0
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	65
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	mid-2015	3629.0/1.9 Including refugees.
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2014	966 2012.
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	mid-2015	3439965
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	70
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	2.6 Data revision. Total level of government expenditure on health increased due to the inclusion of local government expenditure, as well as a more-comprehensive estimation of regional expenditure on health.

21. <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Pakistan#Social>

Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	2.5
Education: Primary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	85.8/100.7
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	36.6/46.3
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	10.7/10.1
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	7.8 2012
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	20.6

BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME²²

The Government of Pakistan launched the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) – the National Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP) – in July 2008, as the premier safety net institution in Pakistan.

Goals and objective of Programme are as follows :

1. Enhance financial capacity of poor people and their dependent family members.
2. Formulate and implement comprehensive policies and targeted programmes for the uplift of underprivileged and vulnerable people.
3. Reduce poverty and promote equitable distribution of wealth especially for the low income groups.

To achieve the supplementary objective of women empowerment, BISP provides support exclusively through women. The beneficiaries belong to the most under-privileged, excluded, marginalized and vulnerable sections of society, living abject poverty. Economic deprivation, regardless of political affinity, racial identity, geographical location and religious beliefs, is the sole criterion for selection BISP beneficiaries.

Following are the programmes under the BISP:

Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT)

The Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) Programme, the core programme of BISP, was initiated in 2008. The short term objective of the programme was to cushion the adverse impacts of the food, fuel and financial crisis on the poor, but its broader objective is to meet the redistributive goals of the country by providing a minimum income support package to the chronically poor and those who are more likely to be affected negatively by future economic shocks.

Eligible families enrolled under BISP were paid an amount of Rs. 1000/ per month, without any conditions sanctioned on them.

Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT)

WeT was developed by BISP in consultation with all the programme stakeholders WeT Programme, a Co-

²². Details taken from <http://bisp.gov.pk/>

responsibility Cash Transfer (CCT) Programme of BISP that was initiated to financially support the primary education of 5 to 12 years old children of BISP beneficiary families for their enrolments and retention. Each beneficiary child receives a cash transfer of PKR 750 per quarter upon meeting the admission verification in 1st quarter and attendance requirement of 70% in subsequent quarters till completion of the primary education. It is part of the Graduation strategy aiming to link the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) to attainment of human development goals.

Waseela-e-Sehet

BISP launched Health Insurance Scheme called “Waseela-e-Sehet Initiative” in 2010 in Faisalabad district on Pilot basis. The core objective of Waseela-e-Sehet Pilot Project was to protect the underprivileged and vulnerable population from economic consequences of potential health shocks and steer out of the catastrophic illnesses by providing social assistance through a health insurance.

The insurance covered BISP Beneficiaries of all age groups up to maximum of Rs. 25,000 per family per annum. The package included: (a) Pre-existing diseases, (b) Full hospitalization (24 hours or more) procedures that involve day long indoor treatment, day care surgeries, Maternal and child health (MNCH) package, (c) Diagnostic tests during hospitalization; one day prior and five days after the event and (d) Transportation cost to admitted patients.

Waseela-e-Rozgar

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) launched Waseela-e-Rozgar for addressing the issues of poverty and unemployment through 'Human Resource Development' in Pakistan. Waseela-e-Rozgar was designed as an exit strategy for BISP beneficiaries to come out of dependency syndrome of getting Rs 4700 per quarter. This initiative envisaged empowering the female beneficiary or her nominee to become economically independent through acquiring demand-driven vocational skills. The aim of the initiative was to arrange training programme in demand-driven trades in selected public and private institutions. It was to be helpful in bringing professional development and self-sustainability as investing in human capital is arguably the best way to improve its livelihood and earnings. The WeR provided a free-of-cost vocational training for every beneficiary woman or her nominee (between the age of 18 and 45) from her own family. WeR is mandated to train one nominee from each UCT beneficiary household.

The programme was mandated to train one nominee from each unconditional cash transfer (UCT) beneficiary household and was targeted to reach up to more than 7 million in the coming years. The following criteria are used for the selection of trainees and the payment of stipend:

- ▶ The trainee is selected from a family which has been receiving cash grant as beneficiary of BISP
- ▶ One trainee is selected from each family in the age group of 18 to 45 years for Waseela-e-Rozgar vocational training programme. The trainee is allowed to select only one course out of 52 offered.
- ▶ 6000/- stipend per month is paid to the trainee through beneficiary through their bank accounts in the National Bank of Pakistan on the basis of 80% attendance..
- ▶ WeR management entered into agreements with around 75 Training Provider involving 322 public and private training institutions under the consortia.
- ▶ The Training Providers are responsible for identifying the eligible beneficiary-trainees and for delivering the training program.
- ▶ Training is provided in 52 Trades to both male and female trainees in the age group of 18-45 years through 4-6 months duration courses.

Waseela-e-Haq

BISP had launched Waseela-e-Haq scheme in September, 2009 to provide and enhance small business and entrepreneurship among poorest of the poor to come out of poverty trap. It was meant to promote self-employment among women beneficiaries or their nominated able bodied members of their families as a mean to improve their livelihood.

Waseela-e-Haq was a targeted scheme of providing interest free loan amounting up to Rs.300,000 in two or more installments to the randomly selected beneficiary families already receiving the cash transfers under BISP. The loan for Waseela-e-Haq was meant for establishing businesses. For Waseela-e-Haq initiative, BISP beneficiaries had been sub-divided into sub-groups of 3, 000 each (Commune System). Every month one beneficiary out of each commune was selected randomly through computerized balloting. An amount of Rs. 2205 Million has been disbursed among 13455 beneficiaries.

SHAHEED BENAZIR BHUTTO CENTER FOR WOMEN, ISLAMABAD²¹

The Ministry of Human Rights is managing and operating Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Human Rights Centre for Women in Islamabad. Victims of violence can share their sufferings in strict confidentiality with volunteers.

Key objectives of the centre are:

1. Medical aid
2. Legal Aid
3. Social Counseling
4. Community Meeting
5. Psychological Counseling
6. Investigation of case of Violence
7. Rehabilitation through skill training
8. Establishing linkages with law enforcing/agencies/police complaint cells

Services offered by the Centre:

1. Shelter home provides temporary accommodation to women and children.
2. Provision of free accommodation, food and other basic necessities.
3. Medical aid is provided.
4. Legal aid is provided.
5. To provide education to the survivor children.
6. To impart professional vocational training.
7. Job counseling to the shelter survivors.
8. Social counseling to maintain relationships to adjust in society.
9. Psychological counseling to overcome depression, anxiety and stress of trauma.
10. Individual counseling to those who need attention and confidentiality from others.
11. Daily group-sessions and physical exercise to cope up with psychological problems.
12. Group counseling to provide guidance, encouragement, challenge and inspiration to the clients in managing and resolving practical, personal and relationship issues achieving goals and self-realization.
13. Investigation of cases of violence and case history.
14. Family counseling for reconciliation.
15. Rehabilitation of survivors of violence and women in distress.

23. <http://www.mohr.gov.pk/>

BHUTAN²⁴

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	1.5
Urban population (%)	2015	38.6
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	3.7
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	2.1
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	69.1/68.6
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	47
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	mid-2015	51.1/6.6
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2014	134
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	30
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	3.6
Health: Physicians (per 1 000 pop.)	2013 2012	0.3 2012
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	5.9
Education: Primary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	102.9/101.4
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	87.1/81.4
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014 2013	9.2/12.6 2013
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	2.7
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	8.5

24. <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Bhutan#Social>

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN²⁵

The National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) was established in 2004 mainly to fulfill the obligations of the Royal Government towards the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The Women's Division looks after the program aspects of the NCWC from a women's empowerment perspective. In line with the functions, the Division is responsible for coordinating and monitoring activities related to women's rights and preparing periodic reports for submission to treaty bodies like the CEDAW and relevant SAARC Conventions.

The Asian Development Bank, since 2011 has also been supporting the NCWC, focusing on the economic empowerment of women and girl children and also in preparing a Gender Sectoral Diagnostic Study. The World Bank is also supporting the NCWC in preparing a Gender Policy Note. The Gender Focal Point Network, which comprises of focal points in various agencies of the government and non-government sectors is a key operational element of the Women Division. The Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU) in the Royal Bhutan Police is an important partner that the Commission works with.

The Children Division is responsible for implementing and monitoring all activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of all children in Bhutan.

It also adheres to international and regional treaties on child rights like the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and the Regional Arrangement for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia. The Division works in close collaboration with the Royal Bhutan Police, the Dratshang Lhentshog (Central Monastic Body) and other government and non-government sectors in addressing child rights issues and takes the lead in monitoring and enforcing the rights of children in the country.

The SAARC Development Fund through its project "South Asia's Initiative to End Violence Against Children" since 2012 has also been supporting the NCWC, focusing on ending violence against children.

The Legal Unit was established at the NCWC in 2012.

The main functions of the Unit are:

1. The Unit receives and handles cases related to issues pertaining to women and children. Most of the cases received so far are related to violence against women, women in special difficult circumstance, children in difficult circumstances, children in conflict with the law and seeking of legal advice and assistances.
2. The Unit screens and facilitates adoption process (both domestic adoption and inter-country adoption) as per the Child Adoption Act of Bhutan 2012 and the NCWC can only process the adoption of a Bhutanese Child. The Unit assesses and determines the suitability of the prospective adopting parents as per a set of procedures. The Unit, as a post adoption procedure, monitors and conducts evaluation of all the children adopted to ensure their well-being.
3. The Unit drafts and reviews legislations, rules and regulations, and policies relating to protection and promotion of the rights of women and children.

25. <http://www.ncwc.gov.bt/en/>

MALDIVES²⁶

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	1.8
Urban population (%)	2015	45.5
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	4.5
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	2.2
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	77.4/75.4
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	47
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	mid-2015	94.1/25.9 Including refugees. Refers to foreign citizens.
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2014	1205 Arrivals by air.
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	9
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	13.7
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	5.2 2012
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	0.9 2013.
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	5.9

²⁷The Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVP Act) ratified in 2012 is an important legal instrument which would protect women against the endemic problem of domestic violence. The main issues faced in protecting victims of domestic violence include absence of requisite procedures, inconsistencies in institutional applications, lack of sensitivity among law enforcement, judiciary, health and social service providers towards domestic violence. It is also important to emphasize the common belief amongst law enforcement and judiciary that domestic violence cases are family matters, which negatively impact victims from getting redress.

An important advancement by the State towards gender equality is the ratification of 2008 Constitution that stipulated non-discrimination on the basis of sex and removal of legal barrier that hindered women from running for the highest public office (Presidency) in the country, and sanctioned affirmative action to disadvantaged individuals or groups.

The current legislative agenda of the government includes a Bill on Gender Equality which requires public bodies, organizations, employers and other persons to take measures to promote gender equality and

26. <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Maldives#Social>

27. <http://www.hrcm.org.mv/publications/otherreports/ShadowReportToCEDAWCommittee2015.pdf>

prohibit gender based discrimination. Women's representations at political posts remain marginal and government has expressed its interest to increase number of women in political posts to 33 percent through a regulation under the government's policy to empower women.

State has enforced Anti-Human Trafficking Act in 2013. With the enactment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, a committee to combat human trafficking was established.

Although there are no direct discriminations by any legislation, women face a lot of social and cultural barriers and stigmatization in running for a public office.

The charts²⁸ below show the participation and representation of women in public life.

Government positions	Percentage of women's representation – total number of representatives
Cabinet	17.65 percent – 3 out of 17 cabinet positions
Deputy and state ministers	15.3 percent – 10 out of 63 deputy ministers and 5 out of 35 state ministers
Parliamentarians	5.88 percent – 5 out of 85 seats
Parliamentary election candidates	7.6 percent – 2014 – 23 out of 302 candidates
Local council	5.46 percent – 61 out of 1118
Local council election candidates	8.06 percent – 222 candidates out of 2754 island, city and atoll councils
City and atoll councils	11.76 percent City Council, and 2.17 percent Atoll Councils – 2 out of 17 City Councilors and 3 out of 138 Atoll Councilors
City and atoll election candidates	8 women competed for atoll councils and 2 for city councils
Judiciary	4.86 percent – 9 of 185
Human Rights Commission	40 percent – 2 of 5 commissioners

BANGLADESH²⁹

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	1.2
Urban population (%)	2015	34.3
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	3.6
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	2.2
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	72.3/69.9
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	53
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	mid-2015	1422.8/0.9 Including refugees.

28. Ritchie M, & Rogers T A, & Sauer L (2014). *Women's Empowerment in Political Process in the Maldives*.

International Foundation for Electoral Systems: Washington

29. <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Bangladesh#Social>

Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	mid-2015	232986 The refugee population includes 200,000 persons originating from Myanmar in a refugee-like situation. The Government of Bangladesh estimates the population to be between 300,000 and 500,000.
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	33
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	2.8
Health: Physicians (per 1 000 pop.)	2013	0.4 2011
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	2.0 Estimate. 2013.
Education: Primary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	115.1/108.7 Estimate. 2011.
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	60.7/56.1 2013
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	11.4/15.4
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	2.8
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	20.0

The constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equal rights of men and women (article 28(2) in all spheres of state and of public life. Other legal and policy initiatives like Women Development Policy (WDP), National Action Plan (NAP) also promote equality and eliminate discrimination against women. The personal laws are in light with the religious provisions of different religious faiths, which in some cases have discriminatory provisions in marriage and divorce, inheritance, guardianship, etc. Modification of personal laws needs agreements by the leaders of all religious faiths.

Most of the civil laws are consistent with the CEDAW and the Government has modified several laws by eliminating discriminatory provisions against women and some new laws enacted, including the Citizenship Act, Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act and Control of Pornography Act. Women activists, women's organizations, civil society personnel, human right organizations and NGOs are participating in the process.

Eve teasing has been incorporated as a punishable offence in the Mobile Court Act, 2009 empowering the magistrate to hold summary trial procedure to control harassment of girls. Media raises awareness against eve teasing and the Parent Teacher Associations work against it. A Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2014 has been drafted with provision of punishment for parents or guardian and the marriage registrar, and compulsory production of the birth registration certificate during marriage. A CSO alliance called 'Girls not Brides' is working to eliminate child marriage together with the Government. Local Government institutions work against dowry.

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, approved in 2010 (herein after DV Act) criminalizes VAW. Rules of Procedure to implement the Act, has been approved in 2013. The Mobile Court Act, 2009 and other existing laws in effect also addresses different aspects of VAW. A national action plan on VAW (NAPVAW) 2013-2025, developed jointly with civil society outlines actions against VAW. The High Court in 2010 provided guidelines to employers and educational institutions to form policies to address sexual harassment in work places, educational institutions and other public places. The High Court also directed the Government to enact legislation to address sexual harassment in public places. In 2011, the Appellate Division of the SC declared that fatwa could be issued on “religious matters”, but not to impose punishment. The Pornography Control Act, 2012 declares any pornographic recording and broadcasting as criminal offence. The Act has a separate section for child pornography and it empowers the Court to take expert opinion/help from IT experts. The DV Act and its implementation have been integrated in the training curriculum of the judicial staff and law enforcing agencies.

The Multi-Sectoral Program on Violence Against Women (MSP-VAW) provides health care, police assistance, DNA test, social services, legal assistance, psychological counseling and shelter for the woman victims through 8 One-stop Crisis Centers (OCCs). One Stop Crisis Cells (OCCs) in sixty areas provide information and referral services. A National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory, a National Trauma Counselling Centre and Seven Victim Support Centres (VSC) have been established to provide legal support, medication, counseling, and emergency shelter to women and children victims. The Acid Control Council Committee and 63 district committees support the acid victims. Cyber Nirapotta (Cyber Crime Safety) Programme oriented 2,839 female college students about cyber security in 2014.

The Police Headquarters has set up 'Special Cell' comprising female police personnel and a Women Support and Investigation Division. A Women's Investigation Division established in 2011 under Dhaka Metropolitan Police is a specialized unit to investigate cases under the Women and Children Repression Act, 2000 (Amendment 2003). Community Policing Forum (CPF) operating in 64 districts includes 33% women and cooperates with the community in dealing with sexual harassment and domestic violence. Thirty two out of 35 Model Thanas have women police officers.

The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (PSHTA) was approved in 2012 to address all forms of trafficking. The PSHTA identifies human trafficking as an offence against the state and provides for investigation as an organized crime. It allows investigation by a group of people covering different jurisdictions, extra-territorial jurisdiction, provision of safe custody and witness protection services. A National Plan of Action 2012-14 on combating Human Trafficking has been adopted encompassing all dimension of human trafficking. To implement the PSHTA, a set of Rules were drafted in collaboration with the civil society organizations. As per advice of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), MoHA is currently working to finalize it.

Bangladeshi officials collaborate with Indian authorities on the repatriation of Bangladeshi women and child trafficking victims through a shared standard operating procedure. A review of the SAARC Convention was done in collaboration with IOM and a proposal was prepared to raise at the SAARC level for consideration of widening the scope of the Convention to integrate other reasons of human trafficking other than for prostitution.

Trafficked victims are supported through nine shelter homes, drop-in centers, and safe homes administered by the NGOs, MOWCA and Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW). The Government operates shelters in its embassy in Riyadh and consulate in Jeddah for female Bangladeshi workers fleeing abusive employers (TIP). MOHA in collaboration with NGOs has finalized standard operating procedure (SOP) for

Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) to ensure support services for victims of trafficking. Good practice of South Asian countries were considered while drafting the SOP. A core committee is reviewing the document for approval.

Bangladesh has reserved seats in the Parliament and local government institutions and women can also contest in general sets and in all elections. The total number of women members including the 50 Members in reserved seats in the current Parliament is 70, which represent 20% in the total members. The Constitution also allows special provision or quota of women in all areas. There is a total of 50 Parliamentary Standing Committees with a total of 509 members of whom 428 are male and 81 are female. In the current Cabinet, there are 3 women Ministers.

Girls' education up to grade XII in public institutions is free. 7.8 million girls in rural areas receive conditional stipends in secondary schools. The Educational Assistance Trust Fund has been established to financially support the poor and meritorious students. In every upazilla 60% school children receive stipends. Increasing literacy rates, enrolment, retention, completion of primary education of girls and reduction of early marriage is evident. 0.133 Million girls received stipend and 0.173 million are selected for stipend. 0.166 working girls receive basic education through the 6,646 education centres. Bangladesh is one of the fifty-four countries with a gender disparity in favour of girls in secondary level.

All public sector employment ensures equal wage and equal benefits of both women and men. The Government announced a wage board in 2013 for fixing minimum pay for garment workers and actions taken to ensure safety in factories. Contractors of the construction sector are contractually obligated to ensure equal wages, however, discrimination exists and the Government runs motivational programmes and monitoring measures to eliminate this. The "Lactating mother support fund", 44 day care centers in 6 divisional and 13 district towns supports low income working mothers.

The social safety net programmes (SSNP) target the poor particularly women for social protection, social empowerment, food security, and microfinance programmes. The Vulnerable Group Development Programme, supporting 750,000 in FY2014-15 women with monthly allowance and training. Other programmes include i. Poor, Widow and Distressed Women Allowance covering 1.01 million poor women, ii. Distressed Women and Children Fund, iii. Maternity Allowance for the poor benefiting 0.10 million women in FY2014-15, iv. Lactating Working Mothers Allowance, for 0.22 million women in FY2014-15, v. Rural Mother Centre for micro credit support, vi. Oppressed Women Welfare Fund, vii. Food and Livelihood Security Program providing allowance to 50,000 women, and viii. Old Age Allowance to support 2.72 million elderly women. Other programmes include Vulnerable Group Feeding, fund for acid victims, school stipend programmes, test relief, open market sales (OMS), which also benefit women. A National Social Security Strategy has been developed to strengthen the existing safety net programmes with a universal life-cycle-based coverage with international standard.

AFGHANISTAN³⁰

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	3.0
Urban population (%)	2015	26.7
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	4.0
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	5.1
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	61.1/58.7
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	87
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	mid-2015	382.4/1.2
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	mid-2015	1421419
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	71
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	8.2 Data revision. Non-profit institutions (such as NGOs) serving households are accounted for in "external assistance" and recorded under government expenditure. GDP includes both licit and illicit GDPs (for example, opium). Government expenditures include external assistance (external budget).
Health: Physicians (per 1 000 pop.)	2013	0.3
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	4.8 Estimate.
Education: Primary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	91.8/130.7
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	39.7/70.8
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	3.7/13.3
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	6.6 2012
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	27.7

30. <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Afghanistan#Social>

Years of war and insecurity has spread the culture of violence in people's lives. The people have experienced physical, financial and mental violence. Armed disputes have increased mental and physical disorders in the country and physical and mental harms done to people have led to violence in families. Women and children have been most vulnerable to such violence.

Women in southern and eastern provinces are more subject to violence. In border areas, armed disputes and influence of Taliban are the main reasons behind increase of violence. Because of insecurity, the government is not able to provide sufficient health, educational and legal services in some areas. Besides, not many NGOs are active in insecure areas to provide services to the people. Therefore, victims of domestic violence have very limited access to legal remedies. As soon as the situation is getting better from the security point of view in those areas, the government institutions start to provide services.

AIHRC has announced 6.7% of the marriages are forced marriages. Based on another survey by Global Rights, force marriage has great impact on the level of violence in the families. This survey shows 63.8% of the women who were forced to get married are facing physical violence, while 36.5% of those who were not forced to get married face such violence. Furthermore, 21.6% of women under forced marriage face sexual violence, while 10.6% of other women are exposed to this type of violence.

Afghanistan National Development Strategy is a government document towards organizing the government development programs for political, economic, social and security areas. 17000 people, nearly half of them women, in 34 provinces were directly consulted on the strategy. ANDS has identified specific goals and indicators in three basic pillars of security, governance, rule of law and human rights as well as social and economic development. The second pillar of the strategy insists upon human rights and gender equality as a crosscutting issue. One of the main goals of the strategy is to develop gender equality in a way that women and men can enjoy equal security, rights and opportunities in all areas.

The human rights and gender section of ANDS has identified three main specific goals:

- ▶ Implementation of 13 indicators of gender identified in Afghanistan Compact and 5- year priorities of NAPWA
- ▶ Implementation of all commitments related to gender identified in each one of ANDS sectors
- ▶ Improving of the basic capacity of ministries and governmental organizations for expanding gender equality

National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) was prepared after multiple talks and meetings with ministries, NGOs and the international community. NAPWA has been prepared according to the needs; challenges and problems women have faced during and after war. NAPWA is a ten year plan starting in 2008 and ending in 2018.

If the governmental organizations do not follow up the cases of human rights violations or individuals' human rights are violated, people can refer to Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and ask for a follow up on the issue.

AIHRC has five strategic goals for implementing its activities which are listed below:

- ▶ Strengthen the leadership role of authorities and employees of the Commission including women,
- ▶ Training on human rights to people including women,
- ▶ Empower people and organizations including women and women's organizations
- ▶ Advocacy on human rights including women's rights
- ▶ Receive complaints of people including women and considering the received complaints

Prosecution Office on Elimination of Violence against Women: This entity is established in the Attorney General Office to support the activities related to investigation, prosecution and conviction of the perpetrators of crimes against women. It also builds relationships with organizations and lawyers dealing with victims of violence, and asks for their support. Prosecution Office on Elimination of Violence against Women also bears the responsibility to investigate and control rape and runaways cases.

The High Commission on Elimination of Violence against Woman: This Commission was created according to Presidential Decree No 1039 in June 2005. It identifies all forms of violence against women and works towards eliminating them with the support of relevant organizations. As part of its achievements, this organization has prepared its 5-year strategy and has conducted study trips and seminars on child and forced marriages which lead to the endorsement of prohibition of the Eradication of Child and Forced Marriage Protocol. In addition, the establishment of provincial offices of the commissions and creation of a monitoring strategy in the country were other achievements of this commission.



GOALS OF AIPA

1. Explore evidence based research to expand economic opportunity
2. Strengthen governance
3. Empower women
4. Increase environmental resilience
5. Promote regional cooperation

OBJECTIVES OF AIPA

1. To empower poor rural and urban communities make informed choices to improve their social, economic and health conditions leading to empowerment, poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood & development.
2. To facilitate the formulation and implementation of better targeted pro-poor social, educational, economic, food and health policies for poverty reduction and district/ regional growth and development.
3. To develop replicable models of social, economic, health, housing and development programme coverage and behavior adoption through demonstrated projects.
4. To develop human, economic and financial technical expertise/ knowledge of Government and Non-Government stakeholders at various levels for better planning and monitoring of rural and urban development programmes.
5. To undertake research (applied and conceptual) in alternative models and processes of poverty reduction and improvement in quality of life.

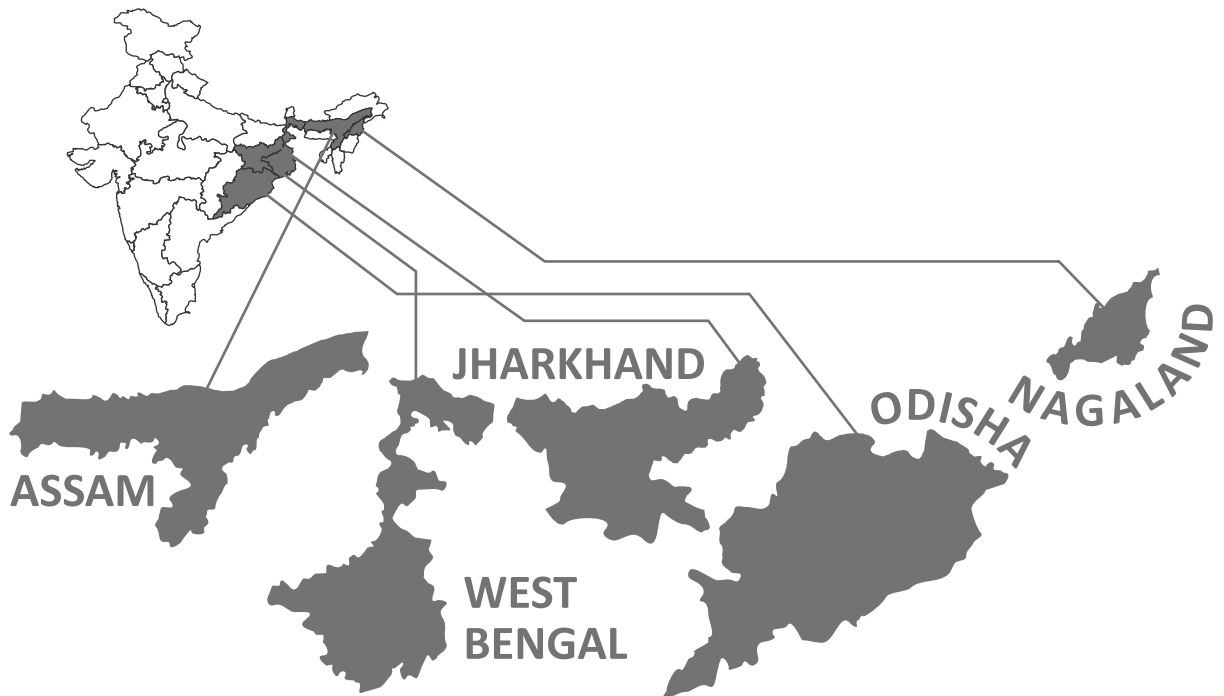
INITIATIVE OF AIPA

We have transformed thousands of lives through evidence-based programmes that focus on women's economic opportunities, increasing women's rights and advancing women's participation in governance. AIPA practices an integrated approach that promotes gender equality across all programmes.

APPROACH OF AIPA

- Research innovation and design
- Capacity building
- Building bridges between research and practice
- Dialogue, knowledge production, documentation and sharing

AIPA HAS PRESENCE IN





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