

CHAPTER 17

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Social Welfare Department is actively engaged in the implementation of various schemes for the welfare of women in need and distress, social security cover for the aged and destitute, programmes for the care and protection of the children through a network of residential care homes and non-institutional services, a programme for the handicapped, financial assistance for the physically and socially handicapped and measures for economic empowerment of women, children, handicapped, and aged persons, to supplement the ongoing programmes.

1. Welfare of the Disabled

As on March 31, 2004 Delhi had 4 schools for the physically disabled with 919 students, 3 training cum production centers and 2 sheltered workshops for the physically handicapped, 1 hostel of college level blind boys and 1 school for the visually handicapped with 201 students and one school for mentally retarded children with 33 students. One home has been established for mentally retarded adult persons that provides free boarding lodging, there are 164 inmates in this home.

Apart from providing free education to disabled persons, the Delhi Govt. also provides stipends and scholarships ranging from rupees 125 to 500 per month to all categories of the disabled depending upon the level of the course. 1110 physically handicapped students benefited under this programme during 2003-2004.

2. Welfare of Juveniles/Beggars

To take care of young juveniles and beggars the social welfare department had set up 14 juveniles homes which housed 1767 juveniles at the end of March 2004. 496 children had been provided care, protection, educational facilities through 11 non statutory institutions. In addition to these, there are 12 homes for beggars in various parts of the cities which have a total of 1100 persons.

3. Welfare of Women

The social welfare department provides assistance, training, shelter and counseling to women. At the end of March 2004, 4 shelter homes housing 149 women had been setup. To provide accommodation for working women, 3 working women' hostel have been setup by NDMC and One more hostel has been setup by the social welfare department at Vishwas Nagar in the trans Yamuna area with a sanctioned capacity to house 130 working women and handed over to NGO YWCA for running the same and another one at Jawahar Lal Nehru university is yet to be operationalised. 14 more hostels are planned to be constructed in different district of Delhi during the 10th plan. 3 hostels are proposed to be constructed during 2004-2005. The Social Welfare Department has already purchased land from the DDA for construction of 6 working women hostels during the year 2003-2004. Vocational training was provided to 1144 women through 25 work centre for women training centers. Under the financial assistance scheme to widow for self employment the social welfare department provides a one time financial assistance of Rupees 20,000 to widows aged 18 to 45 years and Rupees 10,000 to widows aged 46 to 59 years. As of the end of the March 2004, 2842 widows had benefited under this scheme.

To safeguard and promote the interest of women, the Delhi Commission for Women was set up in 1996. Crisis Intervention centers (SAHARA) have been set up by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) in 8 police station district in Delhi. Delhi Commission for Women, Delhi police and a net work of NGOs work in an integrated partnership to run these centres.

The Delhi Commission for Women has introduced a new concept of Self Help Groups in Urban Slums with a view to create robust community-based institutions for assisting women in economic empowerment. A total number of 20 NGOs are participating in this programme and 706 self help groups would be set up. Legal awareness and formation of Mahila Panchayats is another initiative taken for empowerment of women. This programme was also designed in collaboration with NGOs. At present 13 NGOs are participating in this programme and 43 Mahila Panchayats have been established till December, 2001. In addition, the Commission is running Family Counseling Units called Sahyogini. Through Sahyogini the Commission has created space where sensitive family

issues can be discussed, counselling taken and reconciliation attempted at the pre-litigation stage. Delhi Commission for Women has also started a Helpline in March 2002. Helpline provides counseling through telephone to help women in distress. 1968 cases have been settled through Sahyogini and 6545 cases through Helpline

The Social Welfare Department has framed the Dowry Prohibition Rules for effective implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act and nominated all 10 District Social Welfare officers as Dowry Prohibition Officers

Stree Shakti under Bhagidari Scheme, had been launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi on 4th December 2001. During the year 2003-04, 50 Stree Shakti camps have been organized in coordination with department of Health, Education, Training and Technical Education and NGO's in 10 districts and 42,199 women beneficiaries belonging to the weaker section of the society were provided with services of health check up, literacy, skill development training programmes to legal awareness.

Gender Resource Centre (Stree Kosh): Under Bhagidari Scheme, for overall empowerment of women that is health literacy, legal awareness and skill development. Greater convergence of women welfare programmes and activities of Govt./other agencies through Single window information & facilitation center for the community women to provide wider exposure of service available and better placement opportunities. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi inaugurated 4 Stree Kosh Center's first at following places

1. Shahbad Daulatpur, District- North West -II.
2. 13-14 Basti Vikas Kendra, Kalyanpuri, Delhi , District- East.
3. Najafgarh, District- South-West.
4. Dakshin puri, District-South,

More than 1900 women are being benefited through health clinics.1130 women are being provided free legal aid and counseling.1207 Women are being benefited with different skill development courses in the trades of beauty culture, photography and videography, computer, home management and catering, embroidery and jute bag making.1069 women belonging to different self-help groups are being benefited through capacity building

programmes. More than 3000 women are being benefited from 20 camps regarding legal awareness, health education and nutrition demonstration organized/conducted by 10 NGOs under Bhagidari scheme.

4. Integrated Child Development Scheme

Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), 28 ICDS centers are functioning in various parts of Delhi covering a targeted population of 4.61 lakh children up to age of 6 years, as well as pregnant and nursing mothers who are economically deprived. Under the ICDS, supplementary nutrition was provided to 4.92 lakh children and women through 3842 anganwaris in 2003-04. At present supplementary Nutrition is provided at the rate of Rs.2/-per beneficiary per day for about 300 days in a year.

5. Welfare of Senior Citizens

According to the 1991 Census, about 4,39,520 person were above the age of 60(4.7% of population). The Delhi Government has enhanced the financial assistance in the form of pension from Rs.200 per month to Rs. 300 per month per beneficiary to senior citizens in indigent circumstances. At present, about 1,39,680 people are beneficiaries under this scheme. Apart from financial assistance, residential facilities in the form of two old-age homes with 42 inmates and 33 recreation centres have been set up by the government through MCD & NDMC For construction of more old age homes, land has been acquired at Alipur, Rohini, Dwarka and Shakurbasti. The cost of the land allotted by the DDA has been paid.

6. Concessional DTC all route pass to Senior Citizen

All route DTC passes are provided to Sr. Citizens above 65 years of age & having family income less than Rs. 48,000/-, by paying Rs. 50/- p.m. to DTC. The Deptt. of Social Welfare pays Rs. 200/- p.m. per pass as state share to DTC on quarterly basis. Under this scheme 1,22,099 persons have been benefited during 2003-04.

7. Other Welfare Measures

The number of persons who suffer from tuberculosis (TB) in Delhi has increased. Most people who suffer from TB do not get adequate medical attention either due to negligence or financial constraints. The Social Welfare Department provides Rs.1,200 in a year to each TB patient. In 2003-04, 3394 persons were benefited under the scheme of financial assistance to socially & physically handicapped. For the welfare of children, 5 crèches & 10 day care centres have been set up by the Social Welfare Department.

The Rehabilitation Centre for Leprosy treated 1,638 leprosy patients during 2003-04.

8. Janshree Beema Yojna

With the object to provide life insurance protection to the rural & urban poor persons below poverty line & marginally above poverty line “Jan Shree Beema Yojna” was introduced in 2003-04 in collaboration with LIC. Under this scheme, 50% of the premium is paid by members or nodal agency or State Govt. and balance 50% of the premium is borne by Social Security fund. Upto 31st March,2004, 13,206 beneficiaries have been benefited under this scheme.