Women's Agency and Child Rights

OVERVIEW

11.1 The Eleventh Plan recognized women as change agents and acknowledged the rights of children regardless of vulnerabilities of their class, caste, religion, ethnicity, regional, and gender status. The Plan envisioned inclusive growth and advocated ending the exclusion and discrimination faced by women and children.

11.2 The first half of the Plan saw the introduction of some new schemes to tackle issues of declining sex ratio, trafficking, and child protection. Existing schemes were modified to plug the gaps identified by various organizations and experts. The past four years have seen path-breaking legislations like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005. While these steps are important and signify progress, there has been little visible change in the living realities of women and children. At the same time, many important schemes that were suggested in the Plan document have not taken off. For instance, a comprehensive scheme on single women, a national task force for women in conflict areas, a scheme for internally displaced women, and a high level committee to review SHG policies and programmes have not taken off. This delay will further slow down the already long drawn process of ensuring that women's development is truly inclusive.

11.3 The Eleventh Plan has moved towards the concept of women's agency and child rights. For instance, Dhanalakshmi was introduced to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR). The Ujjwala and Integrated Child Protection schemes were started to protect and address the security needs of vulnerable women and children. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was established as a statutory body to protect, promote, and defend child rights. To integrate the gender perspective into the budgeting process a scheme on Gender Budgeting was introduced. It was meant to give a gender perspective to planning, budget formulation, and implementation of schemes and programmes.

11.4 Half way through the Eleventh Plan, the steps taken to attain inclusive growth as per the goals set out in the Plan are clearly visible, albeit the progress is slow. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for rural females had declined from 66 in 2005 to 60 by 2008. The concomitant decline for males was from 62 to 57. In urban areas the decline in IMR has been more significant, a reduction from 45 to 38 for females and from 37 to 34 for males. The all-India estimates show that overall IMR declined from 58 to 53 over this time period. Yet, while the process of systemic transformation has started, much more needs to be done if the promises and targets of the Plan are to be attained. For instance, the concept of gender budgeting needs to be extended to urban and rural local bodies to reflect the









needs of women at all levels of scheme formulation and implementation. Procedures for implementation of the Domestic Violence Act need to be put in place. The Maternity Benefits scheme and the scheme for adolescent girls, both of which were Eleventh Plan commitments need to be launched at the earliest. Many schemes with limited coverage, which came up in the first half of the Plan are too new for impact assessment but hold out the hope that by the end of this Plan they will begin to address long standing issues. It is recognized that structural changes take time and their success lies in proper implementation and good governance (see Box 11.1).

PROCESS OF MID-TERM APPRAISAL

11.5 Five regional consultations were held in Chandigarh (north), Bhubaneswar (east), Jaipur (west), Bangalore (south), and Guwahati (North-East), in collaboration with UNIFEM, UNFPA, and UNICEF. Two NGOs, the Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and the National Alliance of Women (NAWO), were also associated with the process. These consultations were preceded by statelevel consultations. The Planning Commission held meetings with officials from state governments who are the main implementers of the schemes. A nationallevel workshop of academics, researchers, and NGOs

Box II.I

The Eleventh Plan at a Glance: Towards Women's Agency and Child Rights

The Approach

- Recognized the right of every woman and child to develop to her full potential
- Recognized the differential needs of women and children as a heterogeneous category
- · Acknowledged the need for inter-sectoral convergence as well as the need for focused measures by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) for the development of women and children
- Recognized the need for partnership with civil society to create permanent institutional mechanisms that incorporate the experiences, capacities, and knowledge of VOs and women's groups in development, planning, and implementation

Commitments

- Child Protection through ICPS
- State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights
- New scheme to combat trafficking
- · Schemes to cater to the needs of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and ensuring the mental health of children
- Restructuring and universalizing ICDS
- Scheme to address the needs of adolescent girls
- Introducing maternity benefits
- Gender budgeting
- · State governments to frame rules under the Child Marriage Act, 2005, and appoint Child Marriage Prohibition
- · Effective implementation of legislations which address multiple forms of violence against women

Monitorable Targets

- Raise the sex ratio for the age group 0-6 years from 927 in 2001 to 935 by 2011-12 and to 950 by 2016-17
- · Ensure that at least 33 per cent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all government schemes are women and girl
- Ensure that all children enjoy a safe childhood without any compulsion to work

Fiscal Allocation

- Eleventh Plan allocation for MoWCD: Rs 56,765 crore
- Share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs): Rs 55,019 crore (97 per cent of the total allocation)
- Share of central sector schemes: Rs 1,746 crore (3 per cent of the total allocation)
- Share of schemes related to children: Rs 55,234 crore (97.3 per cent of the total allocation)
- Share of schemes related to women: Rs 1,366 crore (2.40 per cent of the total allocation)







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was held to get their perspective on the schemes.

Detailed feedback was obtained from the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)

physical targets an Annexures 11.1 and 2

regarding a schematic appraisal, including schemewise physical and financial targets/outlays and achievements.

11.6 The objective of this process was to assess the ability of existing schemes and programmes to comprehensively fulfil the Eleventh Plan vision of women's agency and child rights. The process helped in identifying difficulties, bottlenecks, and good practices.

THE REPORT CARD

11.7 A sum of Rs 31,343 crore was allocated for the first four years of the Plan. This is 55.22 per cent of the Plan approved outlay, even though it covers 80 per cent of the Plan period. Of this, during 2007–10, Rs 26,998 crore, that is, 86.18 per cent of the total Plan outlay had been allocated for Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) alone. The growth and development of children is vital and hence ICDS needs proper funding. But it is a matter of concern that the 10 per cent allocated for the rest, results in underfunding of other schemes which are essential for women and without which even the goals set out for ICDS cannot be achieved. Most of the schemes related to women have unrealistic cost norms.

11.8 Scheme-wise outlay and expenditure for the first three years of the Eleventh Plan and the concomitant

physical targets and achievements are given in Annexures 11.1 and 11.2.

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

11.9 The ICDS programme, which currently covers 8.63 crore children and pregnant and lactating women is the world's largest programme for early childhood development and care. Yet, despite 34 years of its operation, the country continues to grapple with high levels of malnutrition. ICDS provides an integrated approach for converging basic services through community-based workers and helpers. The services are provided at a child care centre called the anganwadi, literally meaning a courtyard, located within the village. A package of the following six services is provided under ICDS: supplementary nutrition, non-formal pre-school education, immunization, health check-ups, referral services, and nutrition and health education.

11.10 The Eleventh Plan recognized the need for evaluating and restructuring the scheme to ensure that it met the goals that it had set out to achieve. The outlay for the programme was increased from Rs 12,147 crore in the Tenth Plan to Rs 44,400 crore in the Eleventh Plan, an increase of 266 per cent to facilitate this restructuring and to ensure universalization of the new, improved ICDS.

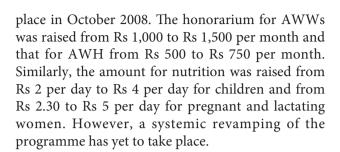
11.11 Some expansion and revision of norms for nutrition and honorarium for anganwadi workers (AWWs) and anganwadi helpers (AWHs) did take

TABLE 11.1
Status of ICDS

Year	No. of Operational Projects	No. of Operational AWCs	No. of Supplementary Nutrition Beneficiaries	No. of Pre-school Education Beneficiaries
2006-07	5,829	8,44,743	705.43 lakh (581.85 lakh children and 123.58 lakh PLM)	300.81 lakh
2007-08	6,070	10,13,337	843.27 lakh (696.44 lakh children and 146.83 lakh PLM)	339.11 lakh
2008-09	6,120	10,44,269	873.44 lakh (721.97 lakh children and 151.47 lakh PLM)	340.60 lakh
2009–10 (up to 31.03.2010)	6,509 (7,073 sanctioned)	11.42 lakh (13.56 lakh sanctioned)	884.34 lakh (727.89 lakh children and 156.45 lakh PLM)	354.94 lakh
% increase w.r.t. 2006–07	11.67	35.19	25.36	18







- 11.12 Currently, there are 13.56 lakh sanctioned anganwadi centres (AWC) across the country, which are supposed to cover all the hitherto uncovered habitations. Of these 11.42 lakh are operational (as on 31 December 2009). In addition to this, 25,431 additional AWCs/mini-AWCs became operational during 2009-10 (as on 31 August 2009).
- 11.13 It is significant to note that the number of beneficiaries for supplementary nutrition increased from 705.43 lakh (82.5 per cent children and 17.5 per cent pregnant and lactating mothers [PLM]) in 2006-07 to 884.34 lakh (82.31 per cent children and 17.69 per cent pregnant and lactating mothers) in 2009-10 (up to 31 March 2010), showing a 25.36 per cent increase. Similarly, the number of children in the 3-6 year age group attending AWCs for pre-school education increased from 300.81 lakh in 2006-07 to 354.94 lakh in 2009-10 (up to 31 March 2010) recording an increase of 18 per cent (see Table 11.1).
- 11.14 A clear directive was also given last year to provide hot cooked meals as far as possible. This is a welcome change, one that has long been advocated by nutrition experts and civil society representatives. It is expected to ensure better attendance at AWCs and also provide greater nutrition security to the children. At the same time, the success of this intervention will depend on the quality and kind of cooked food being provided. Like in the case of mid-day meals, different models are being tried out in different states. Some have passed on the responsibility of providing hot, cooked meals to local mothers' groups, while others rely on NGOs and centralized kitchens run by organizations like Akshay Patra and Nandi Foundation. In most cases, however, the responsibility of cooking continues to be with AWWs/AWHs, which is often problem-

atic because of the lack of cooking infrastructure in AWCs.

- 11.15 AWCs are most often perceived only as places where supplementary nutrition is distributed. The other services under the programme, that is, preschool education, immunization, health check-ups, referral, and nutrition and health education are not of much consequence to many beneficiaries, perhaps due to the quality of services being provided.
- 11.16 The multi-tasking that the AWW is expected to do is phenomenal. She is most often ill-equipped (both with skills and equipment), overburdened, underpaid, and lacks guidance and supervision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.17 ICDS has been in existence for about 34 years and today covers the entire country, but it has not been able to achieve the outcomes expected. National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) is conducting regular evaluation of the programme, initiated by the Planning Commission and the results are expected in 2010. This is clearly time for a detailed comprehensive appraisal of the programme in its entirety, going beyond the usual periodic evaluations. The proposed appraisal/review should examine the need and desirability of continuing with ICDS in its present shape and form. Currently the scheme is treated as a panacea for all child related activities, which it cannot be. The role of ICDS should first be clearly delineated and then should the targets and responsibilities be assigned. There is need to clearly define the specific purpose of the scheme and parameters against which its performance will be measured. The need is to focus on impacts and outcomes rather than on outputs. Alternatives like having certain components of ICDS in certain areas only, conditional cash transfers, and the PPP mode of running ICDS could be examined.
- 11.18 For the remaining Plan period different models and success stories can be studied and attempted and the results monitored with a view to revamping the programme. For instance, a certain district may require more inputs in terms of nutrition while another district/block (where malnutrition is not a problem)







11.19 The following specific initiatives need to be considered while revamping the scheme:

- i. Ensuring adequate infrastructure—many centres continue to be run from rented premises or in the open with little or no place for the little ones to sit, leave alone play. A large number (45 per cent) of the centres continue to have no toilets and 27 per cent lack drinking water facilities.
- ii. Introduction of a second AWW, so that the responsibility can be divided. One worker can ensure adequate support and care for children under three years and adopt a more outreach approach by visiting children and their families in their homes, while the other could focus on the three to six year olds, especially on the pre-school education component. The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) would add to the burden of AWWs further.
- iii. Conversion of some AWCs into crèches and introduction of more than one meal for children under three years of age.
- iv. Greater integration but clearer demarcation of responsibility between AWWs, ASHAs, and ANMs. For the field-level staff of ICDS, that is, AWWs and supervisors there should be dual reporting to both ICDS officers as well as health department officers.
- v. Selection of AWWs and AWHs needs to be done in consultation with the community. They should be appointed on a tenure basis with inbuilt provision for performance-based incentives.
- vi. The single-most important factor that could reduce malnutrition and mortality is, perhaps, early and exclusive breastfeeding, which has not received sufficient attention since there is no budget attached to it and it also has no physical monitorable indicators. This aspect needs urgent attention. A task force comprising the concerned ministries, experts, National Neonatology Forum, World Bank, DFID, and UNICEF could be set

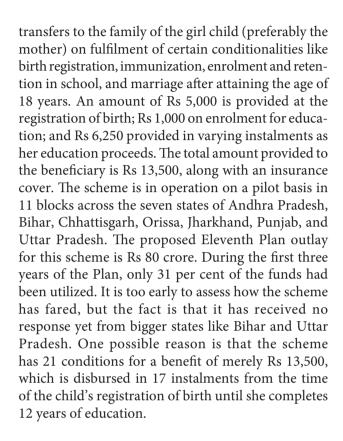
- up to look at various options of 'what', 'how', and 'by who'.
- vii. Collection of malnutrition and growth data from AWCs and independent monitoring of this data on a regular basis. An appropriate nutrition MIS for ICDS should be developed.
- viii. Best practices, like positive deviance *aame bhi* paribu (we too can), dular, and achal se angan, should be disseminated and debated widely and AWCs should be encouraged to devise their own practices and strategies based on this information and others' past experience.
- ix. Transparency and accountability of AWCs' activities should be ensured by putting all their data on their websites. Better governance of the programme through proper planning, monitoring, and concurrent evaluation (preferably by a third party) in order to enforce accountability will be the key to success.
- x. Focus on nutritional counselling and education. The time has perhaps come to make a shift in the communication strategy and moving away from sensitizing and communicating only with the women, to involving the community and the family, particularly the husband and in-laws, as well.
- xi. Mapping of severely malnourished children and providing additional funds where needed. Ensuring regular weighing of children. Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres should be available in PHCs for severely malnourished children.
- xii. Generating awareness about locally available nutritionally rich products.
- xiii. Capacity building at all levels by first determining the training needs for each component of ICDS, for different levels of staff, before imparting the training and doing a post-training assessment. Having a small percentage of the staff as 'training reserve' is also strongly recommended.

DHANALAKSHMI

11.20 This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Centre, which attempts to tackle the acute problem of the declining sex ratio. It was launched in 2008 to bring about a change in the mindsets of family members towards the girl child. It provides cash







Recommendations

- Review and revise the scheme to make it worthwhile and less cumbersome. Reduce conditions and instalments and ensure adequate infrastructure for fulfilment and disbursement.
- Increase geographical coverage to make it viable and of interest to states.

UJJAWALA

- 11.21 The problem of cross-border trafficking, especially of young children and women from Bangladesh and Nepal into India, has been growing in recent years. This issue of trafficking was highlighted in the Eleventh Plan and a new CSS Ujjawala was launched on 4 December 2007. The scheme has five components:
- a. Prevention: Formation of community vigilance groups and adolescent groups. Awareness and sensitization of functionaries like the police and community leaders though preparation of IEC material and workshops.

- b. Rescue: Safe withdrawal of the victim from the place of exploitation.
- Rehabilitation: Provision of safe shelters for victims with fulfilment of basic needs, such as food, clothing, counselling, medical care, legal aid, and vocational training, and income-generation activities.
- Reintegration: Restoration of the victim to the family/community (only if she desires) and covering the costs involved.
- Repatriation: Support to cross-border victims for their safe repatriation to the country of their origin.

11.22 In the Eleventh Plan, Rs 30 crore has been allocated for this scheme. During the first three years, 37 per cent funds had been utilized. During 2008–09, the first year of operation of the scheme, 79 projects were sanctioned for 3,950 women and girls against a target of 65 projects catering to 3,250 beneficiaries.

Recommendations

- Much greater publicity.
- NGOs to be encouraged and sensitized to take up the scheme.
- Procedures streamlined to enable safe and quick repatriation of the victims. A draft roadmap and joint plan of action is under preparation in the ministry in consultation with the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs and their Bangladesh counterparts with technical support from UNICEF.

INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME

11.23 To honour international commitments for the Rights of a Child and the rising impunity in violence against children, the Eleventh Plan had suggested that multiple schemes and new interventions for protection of children be brought under one comprehensive child protection programme. Thus, the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) was launched in 2009 for which Rs 1,073 crore was allocated in the Eleventh Plan. The scheme includes three existing schemes: Programme for Juvenile Justice, Integrated Programme for Street Children, and Assistance to







Homes for Children (Shishu Greha); it also has new interventions.

11.24 ICPS is being implemented through state governments/UTs' administration. MoUs have been signed with the states of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Goa, and Tripura. Childline-1098 is to be extended to rural areas and all districts of the country. It will be extended to 307 cities/districts in the country by the end of the Eleventh Plan. The scheme, along with enabling legislations, is expected to prevent child abuse and violence. Concomitant enforcement of laws for rape, sexual harassment, trafficking, domestic violence, and dowry will make the scheme effective on the ground.

GENDER BUDGETING

11.25 Gender Budget Cells have been set up in 56 ministries which have been oriented to Gender Budgeting (GB). This is a continuous process and constantly needs reinforcement. Efforts are on to sensitize states and local urban and rural bodies to the concept and practise of GB. State institutes for rural development and administrative training institutes are also being involved along with NGOs and other civil society bodies. Optimum use of the gender budgeting tool needs to be made by all ministries and departments at the Centre, in the states, and at the lower levels of governance.

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL CRÈCHE SCHEME

11.26 The scheme for children of working mothers was revamped on 1 January 2006 and is being implemented by the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) with two national-level voluntary organizations. The scheme provides crèche services to children in the 0–6 years age group and includes supplementary nutrition, emergency medicines, and contingencies. So far, 31,737 crèches benefiting 7.92 lakh children have been sanctioned to implementing agencies. The present cost norm is Rs 42,384 per crèche per annum. User charges for BPL are Rs 20 per month and for non-BPL families these are Rs 60 per month. The Eleventh Plan outlay for this scheme is Rs 550 crore and 96 per cent

of funds allocated have been spent during the first three years of the Plan. The scheme has an inbuilt monitoring component but no evaluation has been carried out lately.

Recommendations

- Evaluating the scheme, including examining its relevance and need in view of the universalization of ICDS.
- Exploring the possibility of upgrading some of the AWCs to full time crèches.
- If the scheme is to continue, considering the desirability of converting it into a CSS and revising user charges and cost norms to bring them at par with those of ICDS. The current charges of the scheme are Rs 2.08 per child per day.

WORKING WOMEN'S HOSTELS

11.27 In operation since 1972, this scheme provides grants for the construction and expansion of hostel buildings for working women. The scheme has recently been modified and will now also provide assistance to hostels that have been constructed on government land. In addition to this a rent component has been included whereby the scheme can now even be run from rented premises if three rooms/six beds are available. However, in view of the difference in cost of living and rents in different cities, there is a need to provide greater flexibility of funds within the scheme. Given the ever increasing pace of urbanization and the number of working women, this scheme is of great significance. It is a matter of concern that only 31.5 per cent of the funds allocated have been utilized so far. In 2008-09 only 11 hostels were built under the scheme benefiting 933 working women. Funds are not released on time and this continues to be a major complaint. Most of the hostels are in the metros and not in towns where the need is growing. The quality of services with regard to sanitation and hygiene needs to be improved.

Recommendations

- Flexibility and timely release of funds
- Steps to improve security, sanitation, and hygiene
- Extend the scheme to towns









SUPPORT TO THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN (STEP)

11.28 A CSS, STEP provides training for skill upgradation to poor and asset-less women in traditional sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries, sericulture, social forestry, and wasteland development. The total outlay for the scheme in the Eleventh Plan is Rs 100 crore; of this, the expenditure during the first three years was 62.97 per cent of the outlay. As against the target of providing training to 110,000 beneficiaries in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan, the scheme benefited 70,920 women.

11.29 Based on the evaluation done in 2007, the scheme has been revised to include training in accordance with market demand, enhancement of beneficiary norms, designating the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) as the nodal agency and including other financial institutions as funding agencies.

Recommendations

- Greater awareness about the programme needs to be generated.
- · Further revision in cost norms, along with flexibility in implementation should be attempted.
- · Focusing on market linkages, along with better inputs and market research, would improve delivery.

RASHTRIYA MAHILA KOSH

11.30 The National Credit Fund for Women was set up in 1993 to meet the credit needs of asset-less and poor women in the informal sector. As a channelizing agent, its primary role is to act as an apex organization to direct funds from the government and from donors to retailing Intermediate Micro-finance Organizations (IMOs), which lend to SHGs. The RMK provides IMOs loans at an interest rate of 8 per cent for three to five years. However, after onward lending, the women borrowers are charged much higher rates of interest which goes up to 18 per cent per annum. As against the proposed outlay of Rs 108 crore in Eleventh Plan, the utilization for the first three years was 94 per cent. The number of beneficiaries covered was 6.94 lakh. Rs 25.58 and Rs 26.48 crore in loans

were disbursed in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. The recovery percentage from 1993 to 2009 was 90.73 per cent.

Recommendations

- Lower the interest rate for the final borrowers and increase duration of loans to correspond with the period of loans given by RMK to IMOs.
- Evaluate the structure, role, and functioning of RMK; explore restructuring as a bank or Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with adequate human resources.
- Generate greater awareness and ensure better transparency and monitoring.

SWADHAR AND SHORT STAY HOMES

11.31 Women often find themselves in difficult circumstances with nowhere to go and no one to approach due to lack of a comprehensive social net. In 2001-02, the MoWCD launched the central sector Swadhar scheme for meeting the safety and protection needs of such women. Apart from basic shelter services the scheme also provides for counselling, legal support, skill upgradation, and a helpline for women in distress. As against the Eleventh Plan outlay of Rs 108 crore, which in itself was very low, the expenditure was 85.8 per cent. During this period, only 127 new homes could be constructed.

11.32 A similar scheme of Short Stay Homes (SSHs) also addresses the critical needs of people in difficult circumstances. The common complaints against both these schemes are: poor quality of services, lack of medical support and counselling and insufficient budget allocation, irregular fund releases, and nonavailability of market-oriented vocational training. During the first two years of the Eleventh Plan, 654 new SSH homes were sanctioned against a target of 678.

Recommendations

- Merge the Swadhar and SSHs schemes.
- Provide adequate funds and track their utilization thorough maintenance of an online database on release of funds.
- Involve state governments for monitoring purposes.









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- Introduce third party monitoring by civil society organizations.
- Set up a toll-free universal helpline number across the country.
- Create an online database of residents, with photos, to ensure genuineness of residents, but ensure limited access to the database to safeguard the privacy of women.

INTERVENTIONS FOR BETTER NUTRITIONAL STATUS

11.33 Different surveys and reports indicate that the progress in addressing undernutrition has been almost negligible. There has been insufficient focus on children under two years of age (the critical window for development) and women in the reproductive age group. We are still far away from universalization of interventions (Table 11.2), despite the fact that India

TABLE 11.2
Status of Important Interventions

	Intervention	Status
1	Initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth	40.2% (DLHS*-3, 2007-08)
	, and the second	24.5% (NFHS**-3, 2005-06)
2	Exclusive breastfeeding of children < 6 months	46.4% (DLHS-3, 2007-08 & NFHS-3, 2005-06)
3	Introduction of complementary feeding at 6 months	In age group 6–9 months
		23.9% (DLHS-3, 2007-08)
		56.7% (NFHS-3, 2005-06)
ł	Appropriate infant and young child feeding practices among children of 6–23 months	20.7% (NFHS-3, 2005–06)
5	Supplementary nutrition through AWCs	Not at all to:
		81.4% children <12 months
		74.9% children 12-23 months
		(NFHS-3, 2005-06)
5	Access to care for the severely malnourished	Minimal for nutritional therapy
7	Iron supplement to children	4.7% in age group 6–59 months given during last 7 days
		(NFHS-3, 2005-06)
3	Consumption of 100 iron and folic acid (IFA)	46.8% (DLHS-3, 2007-08)
	tablets by mothers	23.1% (NFHS-3, 2005-06)
)	Households with adequately iodized salt	47.5% children 6–59 months living in households using
		adequately iodized salt (NFHS-3, 2005-06)
0	Vitamin A supplementation every 6 months for children	55% received during last 6 months
	of 9–59 months	(DLHS-3, 2007-08)
1	Full immunization of children (BCG, measles, and	For children 12–23 months
	three doses of DPT and polio)	54.1% (DLHS-3, 2007–08)
		43.5% (NFHS-3, 2005–06)
2	Treatment of acute respiratory infection from	70.7% for children < 6 months
	healthcare facility/provider	76.9% for children 6–11 months
		69.0% for children 12–23 months
		(NFHS-3, 2005–06)
3	Oral rehydration therapy or increased fluids for	17.8% for children < 6 months
	diarrhoea treatment	34.8% for children 6–11 months
		52.3% for children 12–23 months
		(NFHS-3, 2005–06)
4	Deworming of children every 6 months	11.9% for children 6–59 months during last 6 months
		(NFHS-3, 2005–06)
.5	Safe disposal of stool	11.9% for children < 6 months
		13.1% for children 6–11 months
		15.9% for children 12–23 months
		(NFHS-3, 2005-06)

 ${\it Note}{:}~^*{\rm DLHS-District~Level~Household~Survey}; \\ {**NFHS-National~Family~Health~Survey}.$









has a number of programmes and schemes to address issues affecting nutrition. Table 11.2 summarizes the deficiencies in the system. If this situation continues, the Eleventh Plan goals related to reduction in malnutrition among children in the age group of 0-3 years and anaemia among women are unlikely to be achieved.

FOOD AND NUTRITION BOARD

11.34 The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) was constituted in 1964 to improve the nutritional status of people by creating nutritional awareness among vulnerable groups. The FNB is required to monitor the quality of supplementary nutrition supplied at AWCs. The Board also analyses samples of the supplementary food used in ICDS and the Mid-Day

Meal (MDM) programmes to examine whether they conform to the standards approved by the Central Government. The outlay for the Eleventh Plan was Rs 50 crore and 82 per cent of this was spent during the first three years of the Plan. Since the Board oversees the quality and nutritional content of the food provided to children through ICDS and MDMs it is expected to perform a significant role, which it is not able to do.

Recommendations

• Evaluating the role and functioning of FNB and making it more relevant in the present context of the universalization of ICDS and MDM and the disturbingly high levels of malnutrition in the country.

Box 11.2

Eleventh Plan Initiatives by Ministries towards Creating Women's Agency

- Agriculture: Under the National Policy of Farmers, 2007, various measures have been taken for empowering women in farming and allied areas to improve their access to land, credit, and other services, such as joint pattas for both homestead and agricultural land. Availability of Kisan Credit Cards is expected to create multiple livelihood opportunities through crop-livestock farming systems and agri-processing.
- Health: Under the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), MoHFW has integrated cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care to pregnant women as well as ASHAs (link workers). The National AIDS Control Programme is in its third phase (NACP III) addressing the vulnerability of HIV-positive women and also ensuring their access to treatment, care, and support. There are also strengthened initiatives to link Women Living With HIV (WLHIV) with livelihood schemes and other poverty alleviation programmes.
- Unorganized Sector: Recognizing the need for social security for workers in the unorganized sector, the Unorganized Worker's Social Security Act, 2008, has been enacted. The Act provides for the constitution of Social Security Boards at the central and the state levels, which will recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganized workers, many of who are women. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana was launched on 1 October 2007 for BPL families in the unorganized sector. In the restructuring of RMK there will be an increase in the availability of micro-credit to women in the unorganized sector.
- Education: (i) To retain girls in school and to bridge gender disparities in educational access, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a special scheme Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts for tribal girls. (ii) The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) has earmarked 30 per cent scholarships for girls in its Merit-cum-Means Scholarships scheme, Post-Matric Scholarships scheme and Pre-Matric Scholarships scheme. (iii) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a two-pronged gender strategy has been adopted to make the education system responsive to the needs of girls through targeted interventions, which serve as a pull factor to enhance access and retention of girls in schools and help generate a community demand for girls' education through training and mobilization. (iv) SSA works in a convergent mode with the ICDS to promote pre-school education by providing training to anganwadi workers, primary school teachers, and health workers for a convergent understanding.
- Minority Women: MoMA with MoWCD have proposed a Gender Action Plan for women belonging to minority communities. MoMA is developing a new scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women.
- Rights of Tribal Women: Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006, there is a provision where rights conferred shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses. The Act ensures that the rights of the forest dwelling tribal women over forest land and other resources have to be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses.









- System for concurrent assessment and monitoring the nutrition component of ICDS.
- Messages for vulnerable groups and other IEC activities, including information dissemination about correct food habits.
- Greater involvement of NGOs and appropriated funding of their activities.

CENTRAL ADOPTION RESOURCE AGENCY

11.35 This agency was set up in 1990 to work as an autonomous body in facilitating intra-country and inter-country adoptions. It regulates and monitors the working of recognized agencies engaged in in-country and inter-country adoptions. Given the sensitive nature of adoption, the agencies should ensure regular scrutiny of their procedures. The norms, which require a long waiting period, need to be revised and similarly the courts also need to accelerate their actions in adoption cases. As against the target of 10,000 adoptions to be affected during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan 6,254 adoptions were done. In a country where there are so many abandoned children with innumerable numbers living in distressed circumstances and available for adoption and couples with no children this number is too little.

Recommendations

- Since adoption is a sensitive matter, ensure regular scrutiny of adoption agencies.
- Revise the adoption processes and norms to reduce red tape and long waiting period.
- As a central authority ensure that Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) is responsible, responsive, and extra vigilant.
- NGOs engaged in running foster homes/adoption agencies should not be members of adoption committees to avoid conflict of interest.

CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD (CSWB)

11.36 The Board was set up in 1953 with the objective of promoting social welfare activities and implementing welfare programmes for women, children, and the handicapped through voluntary organizations. In recent times CSWB's role and functioning has been extensively debated. Though it is alleged that a majority of CSWB schemes are underfunded, the board is unable to spend even the small amount allocated for

the schemes. Of the Eleventh Plan outlay of Rs 260 crore, 83 per cent was spent during the first three years. CSWB's physical achievements have been unsatisfactory. A commitment was made in the Eleventh Plan to 'review and restructure' CSWB 'in the light of current requirement'. This is yet unfulfilled.

Recommendations

- Evaluation of the structure, role, and working of CSWB, critically examining its present-day relevance and rationale
- If the Board is to continue, weeding out unfruitful schemes and restructuring others to make them more relevant, with effective measurable outcomes
- Estimate realistic financial norms and provide appropriate funds

THE ROAD AHEAD

11.37 A few systemic changes were made during the Eleventh Plan but much more needs to be done if we are to achieve its targets and objectives. Some schemes envisaged in the Plan have not started; others are being formulated or are awaiting approval. There is a need to expedite this process and ensure that the new schemes are implemented and the other steps detailed below are taken with immediate effect to ensure that we do not fall short of the promises made in the Plan.

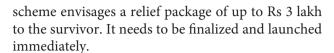
1. New Schemes

11.38 A. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls: The morbidity and mortality rates for women and children have shown limited improvement. Since the health and well-being of a new born is intrinsically linked to the health of her mother, improvements in nutritional standards of girl children are essential to break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition. The scheme aims at empowering adolescent girls along with improving their nutritional and health status. It is in the process of approval with an allocation of Rs 4,500 crore.

B. Relief to and Rehabilitation of Rape Victims: In 1996 the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the National Commission for Women (NCW) to evolve a scheme to ensure rehabilitation of victims of sexual assault. A scheme known as 'Relief to and Rehabilitation of Rape Victims' has finally been formulated. The







C. Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme (CMBS):

The Eleventh Plan had committed to conditional maternity benefits. The idea was to provide cash to a pregnant woman immediately before and after delivery to ensure that she receives adequate rest and nutrition and is able to breastfeed her child. It was meant to compensate for any loss of income that might occur when the woman had to go for regular check-ups, take rest, or nurse her child. Known as the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana' (IGMSY) the scheme is yet to be implemented through the ICDS infrastructure. It is imperative that CMBS has minimum transactions and conditions attached to it, and is launched at the earliest. Provision of Rs 4,500 crore for the scheme has been made in the Eleventh Plan.

D. National Mission for Empowerment of Women:

Following the President of India's address to the Parliament in June 2009, a scheme titled National Mission for Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women is being developed to achieve inter-sectoral convergence and oversee implementation of schemes/ programmes for socio-economic upliftment of women in a mission mode. This is expected to ensure better convergence, monitoring, and mainstreaming a

gender perspective in the functioning of all ministries and departments.

11.39 NGOs are the main implementers of schemes at the district level. Evidence shows that they have been instrumental in developing techniques for the welfare of women and children and in evaluating existing schemes. Thus, there is a need to build a comprehensive and a well-defined space for this sector, besides ensuring timely release of funds to them, a problem highlighted at every consultation. With the help of NGOs a third party monitoring mechanism can be initiated to ensure transparency and accountability. Information regarding grants sanctioned by the government to NGOs should be placed on the websites and be tracked through maintenance of an online database.

11.40 Currently, government schemes and programmes for women are based on the Women's Empowerment Policy, 2000, which drew on the Status of Women Report (1974) and the Shram Shakti Report (1992–93). Thus, they miss out on the current situation of women and the fresh problems that have emerged in the changed global scenario. Problems faced by women living in conflict zones, experiencing internal displacement or dealing with the increasing frequency of disasters are, therefore, left unaddressed. The Eleventh Plan had recognized these new vulnerabilities

Box 11.3 Recommendations for Other Ministries

- · Devise a specific scheme for identifying and helping women in states where agrarian crises have ravaged families (Agriculture).
- Promote women's empowerment, especially in areas where the female sex ratio is low. This could entail special tax incentives for women headed enterprises, women employees, firms employing more women, and women's entrepreneurial ventures (Finance, Industrial Policy).
- · Work towards mainstreaming women in new and emerging areas of the economy through necessary skill and vocational training and technology education. Work towards a social security policy that mitigates the negative impact of globalization on women. Encourage Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Corporate Social Responsibility programmes for women's training, capacity building, and empowerment (Labour, Education, Commerce).
- Ensure that wage work conducive to women and their skills are included under NREGA. Guarantee that if they demand, women will be provided employment opportunities under NREGA (Rural Development).
- Take appropriate steps to ensure that slum dwellers, especially women, do not lose access to livelihood opportunities and basic amenities as a consequence of beautification etc. Provision of clean drinking water, toilets, and sanitation in urban slums is an important challenge for ensuring gender justice (Urban Development).





and needs but in order to tackle them it is vital for the ministry to conduct periodic assessments of the status of women. This is important to not just carry forward the Eleventh Plan commitments but to also measure the progress made against these commitments and to identify the need for fresh initiatives.

- 11.41 Following the suggestions of the Planning Commission to focus on issues of women in conflict zones and internally displaced women, the remaining two-and-a-half years should concentrate on constituting a national task force on violence against women and establishing special courts as a redressal mechanism for providing speedy justice.
- 11.42 A very progressive legislation on domestic violence was enacted in 2005 but its benefits have not yet reached women and child survivors. This is perhaps due to lack of information and mechanisms to enforce the law. In the next half of the Plan period, the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) should be implemented. Translating the law into regional languages and information dissemination through media and IEC activities should be done. Besides sensitizing the main service providers like the police force and courts, the community too should be involved. The government should assist states in appointing independent protection officers and building their capacity. Regional consultations have revealed that the Act in its current form is not accessible to rural women. This lacuna needs to be filled.
- 11.43 Implementation of women related legislations: Prevention of Sexual Harassment Bill, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, and Women's Reservation Bill have fallen on the wayside in a welter of views. They should be passed in the current Plan so that the Twelfth Plan can take measures to oversee their implementation.
- 11.44 The entire perspective behind formulation and implementation of the scheme needs to be reviewed. While the possibility of converting the central sector schemes of the MoWCD to CSSs can be explored, the responsibility of implementing and monitoring can be further devolved to the states. The entire paradigm of having multiple schemes needs to be

thought over. Another option that can be explored is a large umbrella scheme for women's empowerment and protection with a basket of components that the states could choose from. Given that a lot of schemes have underutilized their allocation, realistic cost norms need to be set.

- 11.45 Every consultation expressed the urgency of generating awareness about schemes among the common people.
- 11.46 The Eleventh Plan talked of a comprehensive review through a high level committee to analyse the efficacy of the SHG model. Often the SHG model is treated as a panacea for all problems and hence it needs to be carefully examined.
- 11.47 Women and the media—harnessing multimedia for the benefit of women. Aggressive and proactive utilization of this platform should be done to change the recalcitrant mindsets of society. A media unit should be set up with the participation of professional media consultants and women's media groups.
- 11.48 A policy should be framed for single women, who constitute a significant percentage of the population and face their own unique problems.

CONCLUSION

11.49 The Eleventh Plan adopted a gender lens to initiate a process of systemic improvement in the lives of women and children. But the Mid-Term Appraisal shows that while certain sectors have shown remarkable improvement, others are lagging behind. Since only 35.84 per cent of the Eleventh Plan outlay has been allocated for the first three years of the Plan period, efforts must be made to realize the full outlay of the Eleventh Plan by allocating the remaining 64.16 per cent during the next two years. Schemes for single and internally displaced women, domestic workers, minority women, to name a few, have not found a voice in the first half of the Eleventh Plan. Efforts must now focus on ensuring that the resources are rigorously used towards implementing recent schemes and preparations are made for new ones to fill the gaps.





11.50 Concerted, focused, and outcome-oriented efforts to address malnutrition during the critical window of development of children under two years of age and tackling anaemia amongst women in the reproductive age group are required to ensure that the Eleventh Plan goals are achieved. The possibility of converting MoWCD schemes to CSSs and to transfer responsibility of implementation to the states could

be explored. Efforts need to be made to generate flexibility of norms to address critical needs at the community level by creating a flexi-pool of resources. Schemes should be funded with realistic cost norms. Dissemination of information about existing schemes is also not adequate and this deficiency should be remedied.







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ANNEXURE 11.1 Ministry of Women and Child Development Mid-Term Review of Schemes in the Eleventh Plan—Financial Statement

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S. N	S. No. Schemes/Programmes 2	2007-2012	2007-08	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	Outlay for
		NDC approved 11th Plan	Annual Plan outlay (BE)	Expenditure	Annual Plan outlay (BE)	Annual Plan (RE)	Expenditure	Annual Plan (BE)	Exp. App. as on (31.03.2010)	2010-111
_	2	3	4	5	9	7	8	6	10	
			A. CEI	A. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES	R SCHEMES					
(a)	Child Development									
	Rajiv Gandhi National (RGN) Crèche Scheme	550.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	87.50	100.00	99.4	70
4	national institute of Fuone Cooperation for Child Develonment (NIPCCD)	35 00	6 50	6 50	20.00	8 00	7 65	10.00	6.70	10.00
3	National Commission for Protection				0000	2000	9:	00:01		00.01
	of Child Rights (NCPCR)	35.00	10.00	5.40	7.00	7.43	5.68	7.00	5.10	9.50
4	Integrated Scheme for Street Children	15.00	10.00	9.39	20.00	12.50	11.34	10.00	3.35	0.00
5	Shishu Greh Scheme	5.00	3.00	2.43		2.80	2.01	3.00	1.96	0.00
9	Scheme for the Welfare of Working									
	Children in Need of Care and Protection	10.00	7.00	5.92		8.50	8.38	7.00	9.50	12.50
⊳ ∝	Child Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)	5.00	2.00	0.78	2.00	1.40	1.25	2.00	0.43	2.00
0	the Girl Child with Insurance Cover									
	(Dhan Lakshmi)	80.00	15.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	5.95	10.00	5.00	10.00
	Total A(a)	735.00	153.50	130.42	159.00	150.63	129.76	149.00	131.98	114.00
(b)	Women Development									
6	Working Women's Hostels (WWHs)	75.00	15.00	2.40	20.00	11.00	2.40	10.00	9.40	15.00
10	Support to Training and Employment									
	Programme for Women (STEP)	100.00	20.00	17.03	37.00	27.00	16.02	15.00	12.29	25.00
11	National Commission for Women (NCW)	25.00	5.00	4.03	5.00	5.00	3.87	5.00	4.85	5.00
12	Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)	108.00	12.00	12.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	20.00	16.00	15.00
13	Swadhar	108.00	15.00	13.00	20.00	15.00	14.93	15.00	14.97	34.21
14	Comprehensive Scheme for Combating									
	Trafficking of Women and Children (Ujjawala)		10.00	0.00	10.00	00.9	4.37	5.00	4.99	10.00
15	Relief to and Rehabilitation of Rape Victims	25.00	1.00	0.00	40.00	2.00	0.00	29.00	0.00	40.00
16	Gender Budgeting and Gender									
	Disaggregated Data	20.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	1.30	0.29	2.00	0.29	2.00
17	GIA to Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)	260.00	55.00	42.36	55.00	56.92	39.20	55.00	54.96	80.00
18	Priyadarshini Scheme	95.00	10.00	0.00	23.00	23.00	0.00	27.00	0.04	29.79
	Total A (b)	846.00	146.00	90.82	244.00	181.22	112.08	213.00	117.79	256.00



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0.53 2.39 13.86 0.59 8.24 25.61 246.85	B-1. CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES 293.00 5,257.22 6,300.00 21.00 22.12 20.00 95.00 0.00 200.00 0.10 0.00 1.00 409.10 5,279.34 6,521.00	23.31 200 23.31 200 5,302.65 6,721 B-2. NEW SCHEMES 0.00 5	0.00 5,302.65 5,549.50
3.50 7.00 15.00 1.00 7.00 33.50	B-1. CENT 5,293.00 21.00 95.00 0.10 5,409.10	50.90 50.90 5,460.00	0.00 5,460.00 5,793.00
15.00 20.00 75.00 5.00 50.00 165.00 1,746.00	44,400.00 25.00 1,073.00 1.00 45,499.00	500.00 500.00 45,999.00 20.00	9,020.00 55,019.00 56,765.00
Other Schemes GIA for Research, Publication, and Monitoring GIA for Innovative Work on Women and Child Development Information, Mass Media, and Publication Information Technology (IT) Nutrition Education Scheme (FNB) Total A(c) Total—A (a+b+c)	Child Development ICDS Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment ICPS National Nutrition Mission (NNM) Total-B(a)	Women Development Swayamsidha Total B (b) Total B-1(a+b) Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Adolescent Girls Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme for Maternity Benefit Scheme National Mission for Empowerment of Women ICDS-IV (World Bank)	Total B-2 Total B Grand Total A + B
(c) 19 20 21 22 23 23	(a) 24 25 26 26	(b) 28 29 29 31 31 32 33 33 33 33 33 34 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35	







ANNEXURE 11.2

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		Ministry of Women and Child Development Physical Performance	pment Physi	cal Performance	•		
S. 1	S. No. Schemes/Programmes	Indicators Ph	Physical Target 2007–08	Physical Progress 2007–08		Physical Target Physical Progress Physical Target 2008–09 2008–09 2009–10	Physical Target 2009–10
_	2	3	4	rC	9	7	8
_	RGN Crèche Scheme	No. of new/old crèches to be assisted	31,718	31,718	31,718	31,718	31,718
7	National Institute of Public Cooperation	No. of trainees/participants sensitized	3,950	6,602	3,950	6,059	5,000
,	for Child Development (NIPCCD)	and trained	1	,	1	1	,
\mathcal{C}	Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)	No. of adoptions	2,000	3,264	5,000	2,933*	3,200
4	Conditional Cash Transfer for the girl	No. of beneficiaries in 11 blocks Not fixed as scheme was	Not fixed as scheme was	10,1970 79,555	1,05,029		
	CILIC WILL HISTORIAN (DIGHIGHANILI)	ימתווכובת ווו	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	we we	were not received from 3 blocks)		
5	Working Women Hostel (WWH)	No. of beneficiaries	Nii	500	933		
9 1	STEP	No. of beneficiaries	40,000	39,055 70,000	31,865	0	0 0 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7
\	Kastilya Manna Nosh (KMN)	AS OH 51.5.2009, IOalis sanciioneu—KS 280.03 ciofe; Ioalis disourseu—KS 225.70 ciofe; and no. 01 beneficiaries - noof women	os crore; ioans	aisbursea—rs 223	.,/ U Crore; and no.	1	-0, 30,/ 40
		Programmen. During 2008–09, loans sanctioned—Rs 30.30 crore; loans disbursed—Rs 26.48 crore; and no. of beneficiaries—36,166	o crore; loans	lisbursed—Rs 26.4	8 crore; and no. o	f beneficiaries—36,	166
		poor women.					
8	Swadhar	No. of women beneficiaries	5,000	10,860	15,000	15,360	20,000
		No. of new homes		46		81	
6	Ujjawala—A Comprehensive Scheme	No. of projects	Launch	Launched in Dec. 2007	9	79	20
	for Combating Trafficking	No. of beneficiaries			3,250	3,950	2,500
10	Gender Budgeting and Gender	No. of training and capacity building	Launch	Launched in Dec. 2007	20	20	40
	Disaggregated Data	No. of trainees			340	340	650
11	Short Stay Home	No. of homes to be sanctioned	339	270	339	384	384
		No. of beneficiaries	13,560		13,560	27,648	
12	Condensed Course of Education	No. of courses	800	629	800	713	800
	for Adult Women						
13	Awareness Generation Programme	No. of camps	6,000	5,436	6,000	5,282	6,000
		No. of beneficiaries	90,000		1,50,000	1,32,050	1,50,000
14	Nutrition Education Scheme (FNB)	No. of functionaries sensitized/trained	15,980	14,356	15,980	15,000	16,860
		No. of people benefited from demonstration	n 1,38,600	1,38,600	1,38,600	1,35,600	1,10,160
15	Integrated Child Development	No. of operational ICDS projects	6,237	6,070	7,076	6,120	7,073
	Services (ICDS)	No. of operational AWCs	10.10 lakh	10.13 lakh	12.65 lakh	10.44 lakh	13.56 lakh
		No. of children beneficiaries	722.00 lakh	843.27 lakh	830.00 lakh	712.23 lakh	954 lakh
) of supplementary	(both children	(both children			
			and women)	and women)			
		No. of women beneficiaries of			175.00 lakh	143.31 lakh	201 lakh
		supplementary nutrition (in lakh)		,	,	,	,
		No. of children beneficiaries (3 years– 6 years) of pre-school education (in lakh)	344.00	339.11 lakh	398.00 lakh	330.34 lakh	458 lakh
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 ${\it Note}$: * Likely to increase as information from some of the agencies is awaited.

