

Women and Child Welfare Programme – India

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Under Article 15(3), the [Constitution of India](#) allows for positive discrimination in favor of women. The article, under right to equality, states: "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children."

In addition, the directive principles of State Policy 39(a) state that: "The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood."

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women) was set up in 1993 to make credit available for lower income women in India.

More recent programmes initiated by the Government of India include the Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS),

the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana Conditional Maternity Benefit plan (CMB), and the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla

- **Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) ...**
- Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana. ...
- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla. ...
- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. ...
- Priyadarshini. ...
- National Action Plan for Children. .

Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS)

The Mother and Child Tracking System was launched in 2009, helps monitor the health care system to ensure that all mothers and their children have access to a range of services, including pregnancy care, medical care during delivery, and immunizations. The system consists of a database of all pregnancies registered at health care facilities and birth since 1 December 2009.

Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana

Main article: [Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana](#)

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) is a scheme sponsored by the national government for pregnant and lactating women age 19 and over for their first two live births. The programme, which began in October 2010, provides money to help ensure the good health and nutrition of the recipients. As of March 2013 the programme is being offered in 53 districts around the country.

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla

The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla is an initiative launched in 2012 that targets adolescent girls. The scheme offers a package of benefits to at-risk girls between the ages of 10 and 19. It is being offered initially as a pilot programme in 200 districts. The programme offers a variety of services to help young women become self-reliant, including nutritional supplementation and education, health education and services, and life skills and vocational training

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (The National Credit Fund for Women) was created by the Government of India in 1993. Its purpose is to provide lower income women with access to loans to begin small businesses

Priyadarshini

Priyadarshini, initiated in April 2011, is a programme that offers women in seven districts access to self-help groups.

National Action Plan for Children

National Action Plan for Children Was initiated in 2017, This Scheme Was Launched By Ministry of Women and child Development.

About The Ministry

Introduction

The Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India, came into existence as a separate Ministry with effect from 30th January, 2006, earlier since 1985 it was a Department under the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

The Ministry was constituted with the prime intention of addressing gaps in State action for women and children for promoting inter-Ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence to create gender equitable and child-centred legislation, policies and programmes.

Vision and Mission

Vision

Empowered women living with dignity and contributing as equal partners in development in an environment free from violence and discrimination. And, wellnurtured children with full opportunities for growth and development in a safe and protective environment.

Mission

Promoting social and economic empowerment of women through cross-cutting policies and programmes, mainstreaming gender concerns, creating awareness about their rights and facilitating institutional and legislative support for enabling them realize their human rights and develop to their full potential.² Ensuring development, care and protection of children through cross-cutting policies and programmes, spreading awareness about their rights and facilitating access to learning, nutrition, institutional and legislative support for enabling them to grow and develop to their full potential.

Mandate:

The broad mandate of the Ministry is to have holistic development of **Women and Children**. As a nodal Ministry for the advancement of women and children, the **Ministry formulates plans, policies and programmes; enacts/ amends legislation**, guides and coordinates the efforts of both governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the field of Women and Child Development. Besides, playing its nodal role, the Ministry implements certain innovative programmes for women and children. These programmes cover welfare and support services, training for employment and income generation, awareness generation and gender sensitization. These programmes play a supplementary and complementary role to the other general developmental programmes in the sectors of health, education, rural development etc. All these efforts are directed to ensure that women are empowered both economically and socially and thus become equal partners in national development along with men.

Policy Initiatives:

For the holistic development of the child, the Ministry has been implementing the world's largest and most unique and outreach programme of **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check up and referral services, pre-school non-formal education. There is effective coordination and monitoring of various sectoral programmes. Most of the programmes of the

Ministry are run through non-governmental organisations. Efforts are made to have more effective involvement of NGOs. The major policy initiatives undertaken by the Ministry in the recent past include universalisation of ICDS and **Kishori Shakti Yojana**, launching a nutrition programme for adolescent girls, establishment of the Commission for protection of Child Rights and enactment of **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act**.

Organisation:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is headed by **Hon'ble Minister Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi**, Minister of State **Dr. Virendra Kumar** and **Shri Rakesh Srivastava** is the **Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development**. The activities of the Ministry are undertaken through seven bureaux.

The Ministry has 6 autonomous organisations viz.

- **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**
- **National Commission for women (NCW)**
- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**
- **Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)**
- **Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)**
- **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)**

working under its aegis. NIPCCD and RMK are societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. CSWB is a charitable company registered under section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956. These organisations are fully funded by the Govt. of India and they assist the Department in its functions including implementation of some programmes/schemes. The National Commission for Women was constituted as a national apex statutory body in 1992 for protecting and safeguarding the rights of women. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights which is a national level apex statutory body constituted in the March 2007 for protecting and safe guarding the rights of children.

Subjects Allocated to the Ministry

- Welfare of the family.
- Women and Child Welfare and Coordination of activities of other Ministries and Organisation in connection with this subject.
- References from the United Nations Organizations relating to traffic in Women and Children
- National Nutrition Policy, national Plan of Action for Nutrition and National Nutrition Mission.
- Charitable and religious endowments pertaining to subjects allocated to this Department
- Promotion and development of voluntary effort on the subjects allocated to this Department
- **Implementation of -**
 - **Immoral Traffic in Women and Girl Act. 1956 (as amended upto 1986).**
 - **The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986 (60 of 1986).**
 - **The Dowry Prohibition Act. 1961 (28 of 1961)**
 - **The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988), excluding the administration of criminal justice in regard to offences under these Acts.**

- **Implementation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992).**
- Coordination of activities of Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)
- Planning, Research, Evaluation, Monitoring, Project Formulations, Statistics and Training relating to the welfare and development of women and children, including development of gender sensitive data base.
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**
- **Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)**
- **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**
- Food and Nutrition Board
- **Food and Nutrition Board (FNB)**
- Development and popularization of subsidiary and protective foods.
- Nutrition extension.

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity.

- **National Commission for Women.**
- **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)**
- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (56 of 2000).**
- Probation of Juvenile offenders.
- Issues relating to adoption, **Central Adoption Resource Agency** and **Child Help Line (Childline)**
- **The Children Act, 1960 (60 of 1960)**
- **The Child Marriage - Restraint Act, 1929 (19 of 1929)**

Women Empowerment Schemes

1. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme**
2. **One Stop Centre Scheme**
3. **Women Helpline Scheme**
4. **UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation**
5. **Working Women Hostel**
6. **Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects**
7. **SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)**
8. **Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)**
9. **NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR**
10. **Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar**
11. **Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman**
12. **Mahila police Volunteers**
13. **Mahila E-Haat**
14. **Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)**
15. **NIRBHAYA**