

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) SABLA

In the Indian context, adolescent girls are vulnerable to physical and educational neglect. Malnutrition is more common in India than in sub-Saharan Africa with over 90 percent of young girls reported as anemic. Academically, adolescent girls have a much higher rate of school dropout than boys. Such neglect becomes an impediment to the progress of young girls and women in society. The RGSEAG SABLA program works to combat this by focusing on nutritional needs, life skills component and nutritional and health component.

Extent of the problem

- One in every three malnourished children in the world lives in India.
- Anemia affects 90% of adolescent girls in India
- According to the Ministry of Human Resource Development enrollment sex ratio in primary schools is almost 1 but in secondary education it drops down to 0.79
- 80% of women are engaged in informal sectors, primarily agriculture.

Objective

SABLA aims to converge the pressing requirements of adolescent girls viz. nutritional needs and skill development. Hence this comprehensive scheme provides nutritional supplement and increasing awareness on health, nutrition, lifestyle and adolescent reproductive and sexual health to facilitate a smooth transition into womanhood. It also provides vocational training to out of school girls to create avenues of economic empowerment.

Program features

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) infrastructure would be used for the implementation of SABLA. Anganwadi Centers would be the focal point for delivery of services. The two major components of the scheme are nutritional and non-nutritional aimed at both in-school adolescent girls and out of school adolescent girls. Various schemes to be provided to the girls are mentioned as below:

Service	Details	Service Provider	Target Girls
Nutritional provision Rs. 5 per day	600 calories and 18-20 gm of protein for 300 days a year in the form of hot cooked meal or take home ration	Anganwadi/ Leader	Peer 11- 4 (Out of school) 14-18 (Both)
Iron Folic Acid (IFA) Supplementation	2 IFA tablets per week to be administered to girls at Anganwadi centres	Anganwadi	11-18 (Out of School)
Health Check up and Referral services	General health check up every 3 months. Records of height, weight,	Anganwadi / Medical Officer	11-18 (Out of School)

	and any specific medical problem to be recorded in KishoriCards		
Nutritional and Health Education	Spreading awareness on nutritional deficiency, balanced diet, personal hygiene, first aid and home remedies in Anganwadis	Anganwadi / Medical Officer / Asha	11-18 (Both)
Counselling on Family welfare practices	Age appropriate awareness sessions on reproductive and sexual health, child care practices and home management to be carried out in Primary Health care centers	Anganwadi / Medical Officer / NHRM Setup	11-18 (Both)
Life Skill education	Imparting skills focused on personality development, functional literacy and accessing public services in Anganwadi centres	Anganwadi/ MNGO/ Youth Affairs/Education Setup	11-18 (Both)
Vocational Training using NSDP	Vocational Training provided for a maximum period of 3 years with desired level of flexibility in location to ensure maximum benefit	Through NSDP of Ministry of Labour	16-18 (Out of School)

Funding Mechanism

The financial assistance to the State Governments would be given in four installments for Nutritional component and in 2 installments for the non-nutritional component by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Ministry of Women and Child Development would transfer the funds to the consolidated account of the concerned State Government. States may have a special bank account for SABLA operated by the State ICDS Cell. The State ICDS Cell shall in turn provide grant-in-aid to the District ICDS Cell and the ICDS Projects implementing the scheme at the grassroots level depending on the case. The first installment would be released in the month of April. The other three installments would be released on upon the receipt of the Statement of expenditure of one earlier quarter

Governance and Monitoring

The Ministry of Women and Child is responsible for the budgetary control and administration of the scheme. At the state level, the secretary of the department of women and child would be responsible for the overall direction of the program. At the district level, the District Project Officer (DPO) would be responsible for implementing the scheme and the City Development project officer (CDPO) would be responsible within the ICDS project area. At the grassroots, Anganwadi centres and NGO's would be instrumental in providing the services. The service delivery structure would function as below:

Minister of Women and Child Development

National Steering and Monitoring Committee

Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development

State Steering and Monitoring Committee

Secretary of Women and Child Department

District Steering and Monitoring Committee / Project Implementation Committee

District Collector

Child Development Programme Officer

Village H&S Committee

ICDS Supervisor

ISHRAQ- Program for adolescent girl child in Egypt

In Egypt, as in India, the out-of-school girls are the most disadvantaged and invisible section of the population. With little say in deciding their own futures, they were married and bore children at an early age. In 2001, the Population Council, in partnership with volunteer agencies (ex. Save the Children, Caritas) designed a 30-month program to provide girls with places they could learn freely. The advantage of socializing with girls of their own was targeted to provide them access to education and information about reproductive health. The girls were trained in skills like math, basic English, and sports so that they would have another chance to join formal schooling. The outcomes of the program were exceptionally heartening with a 92% pass rate from the girls who attempted the government literacy exam, and 68.5% enrolled for further education. In various surveys they expressed a desire to be married late, gained awareness about the female genital mutilation and were volunteering in community activities.