Women Empowerment Programs In Chittoor District
CHAPTER-IV

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT.

INDIRA KRANTI PATHAM

Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) is implementing Indira Kranti Patham (IKP) in the rural areas of 22 districts of Andhra Pradesh. There are 1,15,55,868 members in 10,59,056 SHGs exclusively for women. A total of 38,821 Village Organizations (VOs), 1099 Mandal Samakhyas (MSs) and 22 Zilla Samakhyas have come into existence in these 22 districts. As on today, the total Savings and Corpus fund of SHG Members are Rs.3724.07 Crores and Rs.5538.33 crores respectively.

Vision and mission

The disadvantaged communities shall be empowered to overcome all social, economic, cultural and psychological barriers through self-managed organizations. They will attain higher productivity with improved skills and asset base and utilize resources to full potential and gainful access to services. Our missions is to enable the disadvantaged communities perceive possibilities for change and bring about desired change by exercising informed choices through collective action.

During this financial year up to June 2012, Rs.938.28 crores of bank loans are given to 36,472 SHGs under Bank linkages programme. Under Pavala Vaddi Incentive of Rs.878.88 Crores is given to 19,48,384 SHGs during 2011-12, thus totaling to Rs.1967.42 Crores since inception of the scheme. To access the credit
facility from project side an amount of Rs. 1088.07 crores is given to 29,98,855 beneficiaries as Community Investment Fund. Under Sthree Nidhi, up to end of June 2012, Rs. 135.35 Crores were disbursed to 1,00,721 members of 30,384 SHGs in 8,601 VOs in 844 mandals.

Land Inventory was taken up with the financial support of MGNREGS in 22,833 Revenue Villages of 956 mandals. To reduce cost of Cultivation and increase net income through Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture is encouraged, which is free from pests, by the farmers. It is proposed to implement in 37 lakh Acres under CMSA during 2012-13 by benefitting 19.00 lakh farmers. Under Dairy initiative, up to June 2012, SHGs and their federations are operating 187 Bulk Milk Chilling Centers covering 4225 village procurement centers with 1.51 lakh milk producers. In order to bring Value Addition to the Agril. Products Under Collective Marketing initiative, our Community Based Organizations have procured a total of 61.01 lakh quintals of agricultural and Non Timber Forest Products worth Rs. 678.40 crores during this year up to June 2012. To train and place the rural youth, Employment Generation and Marketing Mission is established. Under this initiative, the incomes of rural poor are secured and enhanced by providing 4,48,618 Jobs for rural youth up to end of June 2012.

Objectives

. The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) was established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as a sensitive support structure to facilitate the social
mobilization of rural poor women in 22 rural districts in A.P. SERP is unique for its underlying feature of being a Government Institution working exclusively on the demand side by bringing in a new paradigm of development of poverty elimination through an empowerment process of the rural poor by building and nurturing self-help groups (SHGs) of women and their federations. SERP works on a comprehensive multi-dimensional poverty alleviation strategy by focusing on building institutions of the poor, leveraging resources through commercial banks, Livelihood Value Chain, Human Development Value Chain and to reduce the risks faced by the poor women through social safety nets and entitlements.

Financial Access

To encourage the poor including disadvantaged groups and communities to access the credit facility services seamlessly Community Investment Fund (CIF) from project side, and linkages from bank side are provided to the poor women SHG members to improve their livelihoods. CIF supports the poor in prioritizing livelihood needs by investments in sub-projects proposed and implemented by the Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The cumulative CIF expenditure up to March, 2012 is Rs.1088.07 Crores and the total numbers of beneficiaries 29, 98,855. The SHG Bank Linkage is a great success story in A.P. The year wise progress from 2004-05 to March 2011-12.
To reduce the financial burden on the self help groups, the Government introduced “Pavala Vaddi” scheme w.e.f 01.07.2004. The Government gives incentive in the form of reimbursement of the interest above 3% per annum on the loans taken by the self help groups under this scheme. During the year 2011-12 upto June 2012, Rs.878.88 crores were reimbursed to 19,48,384 SHGs, thus totaling to Rs.1967.42 crores since inception of the scheme. The Government of AP has announced an improved incentive scheme for the SHGs repaying installment promptly from the present Pavala vaddi to 0% interest (Vaddi Leni Runalu) effective from 1.1.2012 as for the eligibility criteria for those SHGs whose borrowings not exceeding Rs. 5.00 lakhs. 1099 Mandal Mahila Samakhyas (MMS) of SHGs in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh have promoted ‘STHREE NIDHI’ Credit Cooperative Federation Ltd, to address the issues of inadequate finance and to ensure timely availability of Credit, preferably within 48 hours, for meeting emergent and other needs of the poorest of the poor. Up to end of June 2012, Rs. 135.35 Crores were disbursed to 100721 members of 30,384 SHGs in 8601 VOs in 844 mandals.

Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA) is meant to support the poor farmers to adopt sustainable agriculture practices to reduce the costs of cultivation and increase net income to improve and sustain agriculture based livelihoods. CMSA is now implementing in 2012-13 in 11000 villages in 653 mandals of 22 districts, in 37 lakh acres with 19 lakh farmers. The Flagship
programmes identified under CMSA during 2010-11 are POP Strategy, 36 X 36 models and SRI Paddy. With CMSA practices, the savings varied from Rs.1,000 in case of Paddy to Rs.16,000/- in case of Chilies by which additional incomes to farmers ranges from Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 per acre. POP strategy facilitates the land lease to the landless labourers and promotes CMSA practices in these lands. SRI system of paddy is cultivated in 0.25 Acre and 36 X 36 model or 7 tire model or poly crops in the remaining 0.25 Acres to earn a net income of Rs.50,000/-. 14,899 PoP families will adopt this strategy. Apart from this, more than 1 lakh 36*36 models have been grounded benefitting 1 lakh families with household nutritional security.

Livestock and Poultry Development initiative of Dairy Development started with ensuring remunerative price to milk through CBOs managing Bulk Milk Cooling Units and Village milk procurement centres in two mandals (Yellareddy of Nizamabad and Addakal of Mahaboobnagar) in two districts during 2006-07, has reached a high of CBOs managing 187 BMCUs and procuring milk from more than 1,51,000 pourers of 4225 Village Milk procurement centers by the end of June 2012. During the FY 2011-12 the IKP managed BMCUs have procured a minimum of 1,97,028 LPD(April2011) and maximum of 3,36,449 LPD( Jan 2012) and the cumulative milk procured from April2011 to March 2012 is 10,02,47,630 liters. The milk procured during the month of June, 2012 is 1,08,37,564 Litres. The process of ensuring Minimum Support Price to milk has now gained momentum and
the focus of LPD unit has changed to strengthening backward linkages to dairying.

To enhance the production and productivity of milk it is decided to strengthen certain activities like perennial Green Fodder Production APBN Fodder nurseries in 189 mandals supply of quality concentrate feed, proper breeding services and animal health access. The grounding of Milch animals and small ruminants is in progress in

**PoP mandals** with due stress on the family incomes of SC and ST members.

5 State Milk Mission: With an intention to almost double the Milk Production by 2014-15, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched State Milk Mission with an outlay of Rs.5332 crores to be spent in 4 years starting from 2011-12. The scheme envisages the rearing of Milch Animals in group mode i.e. Mini Dairy model which is called Pala Pragathi Kendram (PPK). Each eligible SHG group will be facilitated to take up community dairy farming with 8 milch animals housed under single shelter. They will grow Perennial fodder in 1.25 Acres land nearer to the cattle shed and milking will be done with the help of Hand operated milking machine. The fodder will be conserved by using power operated chaff cutter. The SHG members can engage the services of one or two persons in the village or they can themselves entrust the work to one or two members and all others can involve in their own works. The Mission has been launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 17-01-2012 in China Gottimukkala village of Shivampeta mandal in Medak District. And so far 114 PPKs have been grounded in the stat.
The Community Marketing strategy of the project is to enable the small, marginal farmers and NTFP collectors to obtain the best price for their agricultural commodities and forest produce. The marketing interventions through IKP VOs is being promoted mainly to eliminate unfair trade practices, to increase the bargaining power of small and marginal farmers in rural areas and also to generate employment/income to the VOs. The VOs have successfully implemented village level collective marketing of Paddy, Maize, Neem, Red gram, Cashew, and NTFP besides Agricultural Inputs etc. The marketing interventions of IKP have registered a Significant increase in this financial year with pick up in paddy procurement activity.

Inclusive development of people with disabilities (PWDs) is one the critical components of SERP’s interventions, focusing on enhancing livelihood, functioning, and community-integration of PWDs and their families. The disability interventions of IKP have enabled more than 3.60 Lakh persons with disabilities in the rural areas to be organized and develop their own CBOs. Intensive activities are being carried out in 813 mandals. 3,60,811 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are organized into 39,958 exclusive SHGs and also formed 343 MVS and 4 Zilla Samakhyas in the State. PwDs are given an assistance of Rs.202.50 crores through CIF, Bank Loans and Revolving Fund for enhancing their Livelihood. Further, Provision of Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation services were made through community managed interventions through 90 neighbourhood centers. 5312 Surgical Corrections were carried out and 43,697 PwDs were issued assistive devices at no cost to them in
the programme mandals. Through Software for Assessment of Disability for Access Rehabilitation and Empowerment (SADAREM) all the Persons with Disabilities shall be assessed a fresh recording percentage of disability and all the existing Disability Certificates shall be replaced by reassessing the persons with disabilities by concerned Dist. Medical Boards. So far 10.10 Lakhs PwDs are assessed against the target 11.55 lakhs. Under Janasree Bheema Yojana (JBY) 2,68,112 covered. 13858 Srama Shakti Sanghams are formed by 95132 exclusively for PwDs under MGNREGS. Centre for Person with Disability Livelihoods (CPDL) provided 1668 placements in the Public Sector as against 2432 trained.

**Abhaya Hastham (Indira Kranthi Patham Pension and Insurance Scheme for SHG Women)**

Govt. of AP have undertaken comprehensive eradication of poverty, in rural and urban areas through the Indira Kranthi Patham, a Programme for empowerment of women, through formation, development and strengthening of women SHGs and their federations, covering 1 Crore 25 Lakh women in rural and urban areas. During the last 3 years, Government is also implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to secure guaranteed wage employment to the rural poor. As a result of these measures, a large number of women and their families in rural and urban areas are enjoying stable livelihoods, increased incomes and better quality of life. While economic growth at household level is an important pre-condition for expanding the scope of Social Security, no less important is the need for adopting
special social security policies. The Government regards social security as one of the important factors in improving quality of life and elimination of poverty.

The need for income security in their old age, when their ability to earn from their physical labour would have reduced considerably has been voiced by SHG members in various meetings they had with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in the month of December 2008. Responding to the demand from the SHG women, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has conceptualized Abhaya Hastham.

Abhaya Hastham is a Co-contributory Pension Scheme for the women, above the age group of 18, belonging to the Self Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh. The scheme envisages contribution of Rs.30/- per month by SHG women and Government’s co-contribution of Rs.30/- per month into her Pension account. The contribution of the member and the co-contribution of the Government is periodically transferred to Life Insurance Corporation of India, for investing diligently for securing better returns on the investment. The corpus thus generated till the age of 60 years, will be used for giving monthly pension amount to each women, on crossing 60 years of age.

To cover the SHG member’s access to Social Safety nets and entitlements were designed through Dr. YSR Abhaya Hastham, AABY and Social Security Pensions. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have introduced pension scheme for the SHG women to provide income security in their old age and social security to all
women SHG members to enable them to lead secure life with dignity in old age. This scheme is visualized for the women for the SHG women over and above group 18 in rural and urban are as to provide social security in their old age. This scheme envisages contribution of Rs. 1 per day into her pension account. The contribution of the member the co-contribution of the Government periodically transferred to LIC of India for investing diligently for securing better returns on the investment. The corpus thus generated till the age of 60 years will be used for giving monthly pension of Rs. 500/- and maximum of Rs. 2200/- per month.

Pavala Vaddi

The scheme was started during the year 2004-05 with an objective of providing interest subsidy on the loans taken by the Self Help Groups. The scheme is applicable to all loans extended by banks on or after 1st July 2004, under SHG Bank Linkage Programme. The incentive will be in the form of reimbursement of interest whatever is above 3% interest irrespective of bank interest rates. The subsidy shall not include penal interest, liquidated damages etc., paid to the bank. An amount of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs is allocated in the budget and the amount has been released during the current year. During the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 8900.00 lakhs is being proposed towards interest subsidy on the loans taken by SHGs under SHG Linkage programme.
The Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced Pavalavaddi Scheme (Interest Subsidy) during the year 2004-05 with an objective to provide interest subsidy on the Bank loans taken by the Self Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh to reduce the financial burden on them. The Scheme is applicable to all loans extended by banks on or after 01.07.2004, under SHG Bank Linkage Programme.

Need of the Scheme:

1 Self Help movement of women with thrift as entry point has grown as a mass movement in Andhra Pradesh. There are about 6.99 lakh women Self Help Groups covering nearly 89 lakh rural poor women in AP. The Government adopted mocr credit as a tool to attain the economic empowerment of women and facilitated SHG bank linkage programme in a big way since 1998-99 onwards in the State. The SHG women have taken up various income generating activities by availing themselves of the facility under the SHG - Bank Linkage programme and created a path for their economic empowerment. The Nationalized banks, Regional Rural Banks & Co-operative Banks are coming forward to issue loan to Self Help Gropus.

The Banks are giving loans under SHG Bank Linkage programme with different rates of interest ranging from 8% to 12%. The groups are facing difficulty in paying such rates of interest.

The reduce the financial burden on the Self Help Groups. The Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced the "Pavala Vaddi" scheme (Interes Subsidy) during the
year 2004-05 with an objective to provide interest subsidy on the loans taken by Self Help Groups under this scheme.

**Process:**

1. The DRDA will obtain the details of SHG repayment for the purpose of interest subsidy twice a year through the Mandal Samakhya.

2. DRDA will calculate the Pavala Vaddi to be given to each SHG basing on the bank statement. The DRDA will give the Pavala Vaddi Cheques to the Mandal Samakhya along with the statement of particulars accruing to each SHG.

3. The Mandal Samakhya in turn will distribute the cheques to the SHGs through the Village Organisations in the Presence of non officials.

**SHG (Self Help Group) Bank Linkage**

Self Help movement through savings has been taken up as a mass movement by women. There are about 5.79 lakh women SHGs in Andhra Pradesh covering nearly 74.58 lakh rural poor women. The SHGs are not only resorting but are also taking small loans out of the corpus available with the group. An amount of Rs. 2385.98 crores is mobilized as corpus among these groups. The state government has taken several initiatives to extend financial support to these groups which are mentioned hereunder.
Self sustaining movement

The members of SHGs are poor with low or nil saving capacity, and who depend on moneylenders or private sources to meet their expenditure and other obligations. During the group meetings, the thrift amount is pooled and given as loans to members for utilization, production or investment purposes based on the priorities determined by the group. The group members keeping in view the interests and prosperity of the member take a collective decision regarding all matters. These groups play the role of a mid-wife or money lender.

Since it is members thrift that is given out as loans to one or two members at each meeting depending upon the priorities as set by the group, members exercise close supervision on utilization of loans. Peer pressure is exerted on members to continue savings to enable every member to have an opportunity to avail loans. Prompt repayment of loans is insisted by the remaining members to avail themselves loans of higher order. As a result, at any given point of time all members in a SHG will not be borrowers. Even if all of them are borrowers, their loans outstanding will not be equal. Several interesting features have been observed in the financial dynamics of groups where there is evidence in qualitative shift in loans portfolio in favour of productive purposes as against consumption loans availed earlier. So is the case with the size of loan.
IKP Dairy Programme

The dairy activity is a major livelihood opportunity for the rural poor in Andhra Pradesh. Milk procurement activity taken up on pilot basis in Nizamabad and Mahaboobnagar districts during 2006-07 and it has helped the milk producers to get better price for milk and promoted transparency in Milk Procurement. This also triggered intervention in milk productivity in the villages. Based on the success evidenced in the pilots, the same model is replicated in 18 more districts in the state during the year 2008-09. Bulk Milk Cooling Units (BMCUs) with a capacity of 2000 to 5000 liters to collect and chill to the desired temperature of 4° C were established in 174 mandals in the state. In collaboration with the APDDCF Ltd., the SHGs and their federations have taken over 174 BMCUs covering 3400 Village Milk Procurement Centers with 1, 39,875 milk producers and contributing 2.57 lakh liters of milk per day in peak season and 1.79 lakh liters of milk per day in lean season. The total quantity and the value of the milk procured and supplied by the SHG managed BMCUs during the year 2009-10 is 49248 MTs and Rs.9849.60 lakhs. 25 Andhra Pradesh Bajra Napier (APBN) fodder nurseries (perennial fodder) have been established during this year for supplying fodder slips to the farmers. About 1025 Acres of APBN is grown by community members to supply green fodder to the Milch animals in 412 villages of 16 districts. 69 Mini Feed Mixing Plants have been sanctioned under PM package to BMCU Mandal Samakhyas for preparation and supply of Concentrate feed to community members under feed credit programme.
Out of the 69 plants sanctioned 25 plants have been installed and were sanctioned working capital of Rs.3-00 Lakhs each. 9 plants have already begun supplying feed to community member farmers.

IKP IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT

The DWACRA movement started in the Chittoor District in the year 1992. Later it has renamed as a velugu in 1994 then Indira Kranthi Pathakam in 2004. Under SGSY it was converted to Self Help Group Movement. The project APRPRP has been started functioning in the District w.e.f., June 2002. The old groups and newly formed groups are strengthened through the continuous facilitation support given by IKP Staff such as community coordinators and APMs along with social capital formed at the village level such as community activists, community resource persons, Village book keepers, Mandal level book keepers etc. The defunct groups were also revived and old groups were strengthened. On account of continuous intensive training and capacity building initiatives the groups have become more active and self sustainable.

At present chittoor District 50207 Self help Groups are engaged, in this process 5914 SHGs groups are got subsidy from SGSY, 15670 SHGs under SGSY Training component, 3053 Under Revolving fund component, 24636 Total SHGs assisted under SGSY. Under the Pasu Kranti Pathakam women got a subsidy of Rs.27.22 crore has been provided in Chittoor district alone for procuring 10,740 milch animals, all high-yielding breeds. A sizeable chunk of subsidy has also gone
towards providing green grass and fodder for the animals. Similarly, ST families were benefited 1,905 animals at a subsidy of Rs.2.34 crore.

The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh implemented this scheme there are three phases

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<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Sanction houses</th>
<th>Fully built houses</th>
<th>Phasing houses</th>
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<td>2,12,087</td>
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Source:- The District collectors office chittoor and Daily news eenadu on 3/5/11

At present chittoor district people has been applied more need of houses under Rachabanda. There are 97,000 applications are received government official under the Raccha Banda Programme.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act gives legal guarantee of providing at least 100 days of wage employment to rural households whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual labour. The program has been grounded in AP on a strong footing with the following non negotiable.

Contractors and labour displacing machinery shall not be engaged. Every registered rural household shall be provided not less than 100 days of wage
employment in a financial year. Payment of wages shall be made at least once in a
fortnight. Equal wages shall be paid to men and women. Works approved by the
Grampanchayath (identified in the Gram Sabha) at village level, the Mandal Parishad
at Mandal Level and the Zilla Parishad at District level only shall be taken up

Provisions regarding wage rate payable to the workers

Wages are paid to the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers in accordance with the
wage rate as provided in Section 6 of the Act. Section 6(1) provides that Central
Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act
provided that the wage rate notified by the Centre shall not be less than 60 per day.
Section 6(2) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that until such time as a wage
rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the
minimum wage fixed by the State Governments under Section 3 of the Minimum
Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be the wage rate applicable to that
area.

The workers are entitled to be paid wages on a weekly basis and in any case
within a fortnight of the date on which work was done. Payment of wages to the
NREGA =workers has been made mandatory through their accounts in post
offices/banks. In the
event of any delay in wage payment, workers are entitled to compensation as per the
provisions of the payment of wages Act 1936 Compensation costs shall be borne by
the State Governments.
Employment under the Scheme is not provided employment within 15 days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which the employment has been sought in the case of an advance application, whichever is later, he shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance. The rate of unemployment allowance will be 1/4th of the wage rate for the first 30 days and ½ of the wage rate for the remaining period of the financial year. Unemployment allowance has been paid by a number of States. Unemployment allowance is paid by the respective State Governments from its own budget.

Public participation

_Wage Seekers:_

The wage seekers are the primary stakeholders of the Act. Their exercise of rights and demand for work are the main trigger of key processes. The rights of the wage seekers are:

i. Application for registration

ii. Obtaining a Job Card

iii. Application for work

iv. Choice of time and duration of the work applied for

v. Getting work within fifteen days of application
vi Facilities of crèche, drinking water, first aid etc on work site

vii Right to check their Muster Rolls and to get all the information regarding their employment entered in their job cards.

viii Receipt of wages within fifteen days of work done

ix Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.

**Grama Sabha**

The Grama Sabha is the principal forum for wage seekers to raise their voices and make demands. The Grama Sabha has the following rights and responsibilities under the Act:

1. It recommends works to be taken up and is the final authority to determine the order of priority in which works will be initiated under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

2. It is the primary forum for conduct of social audits

3. In addition, it is suggested that the Grama Sabha will proactively disclose following information related with the implementation of the scheme:

   A. Names of work both completed and ongoing with wages paid and material component.
B. Names of persons, preferably with Job Card No. who have worked, days worked and wages paid to each of them.

C. Quantity and price of materials purchased for each project along with name of agency which supplied the material.

Gram Panchayat (GP)

The Gram Panchayat is the pivotal body for implementation. Where Part Nine of the Constitution does not apply, local councils/authorities as mandated by the State concerned will be invested with corresponding responsibilities. At least 50% of the works in terms of cost will be allotted to Gram Panchayats for implementation. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for the following activities:

i. Receiving applications for registration

ii. Verifying registration applications

iii. Registering households

iv. Issuing Job Cards

v. Receiving applications for work

vi. Issuing dated receipts for these applications for work

vii. Allotting work within fifteen days of application

viii. Conducting surveys to develop Labour Budget
ix Planning of works and developing Shelf of Projects to be forwarded to Programme Officer for scrutiny and preliminary approval

x Executing works

xi Maintaining records

xii Providing utilization certificates

xiii Convening the Gram Sabha for planning and social audit

xiv Monitoring implementation at the village level

xv Pro-actively disclosing following information:

A. Details of works both completed and on-going (including wages paid and material component).

B. Names of persons (with Job Card numbers) who have worked, days worked and wages paid to them.

C. Quantity and price of materials purchased for each project along with name of agency which supplied the material.

The Mukhiya/Pradhan/Sarpanch and the Gram Rozgar Sahayak will be liable for action under the provisions of Rule 25 of the Act for not carrying out any of these responsibilities.
Social audit

Andhra Pradesh is the only State which established a full-fledged Social Audit Unit at the State level with exclusive Staff. The Unit works independently and reports to Government. So far Social Audit has been completed in 28,436 Gram Panchayats, covering 1001 mandals in 22 Districts in the 1st round, 434 mandals covered in 2nd round and 33 mandals in 3rd round.

This is an effective tool to check corruption and to enhance the accountability to people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL.No</th>
<th>Total No. of Mandals in the Dist</th>
<th>No. of Job cards issued</th>
<th>No.of labour attended to work</th>
<th>Wages received in lakhs</th>
<th>No.of families Completed 100days</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>3,47,955</td>
<td>4,27,937</td>
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</table>

NRGS programme in Chittoor district

There are 66 Mandals in Chittoor District. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, nearly, 6,17,181 persons were issued job cards. 7,75,892 persons attended to work out of 7,75,892 (3,47,955 male and 4,27,937 female). The number of families completed 100 days are 2,62,510 persons through the MGNREGs' at present only 70,000 persons are on going the work.
DEEPAM SCHEME

Government of A.P. launched "DEEPAM SCHEME" on 9.7.1999 for distribution of 10 lakh LP gas connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families in Rural areas with the main objectives of:

1. To provide relief to women from drudgery of cooking with firewood.

2. To improve the health status of the Rural women folk.

Government of India agreed to release these 10 lakh gas connections subject to surrender of 5 ltr's of kerosene per connection per month.

Under the scheme public sector under taking oil companies viz. The Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindusthan Petroleum Corporation are the agencies which will supply LP Gas connections to the women in Rural areas. Beneficiaries under the scheme will be members from DWCRA Groups.

Refundable security deposit of Rs.1000/- per gas connection will be paid by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for each connection towards cylinder and regulator. The beneficiary will have to pay cost towards the gas stove (ISI Mark) ISI Tube, identification (Blue) book and administrative charges.

Beneficiary is at liberty to purchase any ISI Marked stove of his choice. In order to ensure that the dealers do not sell stoves at exorbitant rates, the maximum rate has been prescribed for standard stoves by the Government as follows:
Double burner brass top stove Rs.495/- per stove

Double burner cast iron top stove Rs.468/- per stove

Single burner brass top stove Rs.280/- per stove

Single burner cast iron top stove Rs.260/- per stove

Rubber tube Min Rs.12/- Max Rs.21.50

In order to ensure that there is a proper implementation of the scheme, a State Level Commission had been constituted with Principal Secretary, Rural Development as Chairman. Similarly at the District level a committee has been constituted with Collector as Chairman.

All the Motivators, Animators and Asst. Gram Savikas, has been trained in safe handling of gas connection. They will in turn, impart training to the beneficiaries in handling gas connections and the safety measures to be followed. All the beneficiaries are being given literature in Telugu language about the safety measures to be followed. All the beneficiaries are being given literature in Telugu language about the safety measures to be taken in handling gas connections.

The Mandals which are not covered by the existing LPG dealers have been identified and the Civil Supplies Corp., and Girijan Co-operative Corp., have taken up the matter with the Oil Cos., for awarding dealership in the uncovered Mandals, by the existing dealers. So far 26 distribution points have been commissioned by the Civil Supplies Corp. The Girijan Cooperative Corp., has also commenced one LPG distributorship.
Government decided to release 5 lakh LPG connection in municipal areas for beneficiaries of BPL members, DWCRA, Thrift Groups including self help groups of Scheduled Castes and minorities. Among these 5 lakh gas connections, 50000 connections were intended for release to the members of Vana Samrakshana Samithi.

**Other schemes and programmes for women in Andhra Pradesh**

**National Old Age Pension Scheme**

The government of India has the National Old Age Pension Scheme as one of the sub-schemes of National Social Assistance Program. The scheme has come into existence with effect from 15th August 1995. It aims to provide social assistance to the poor people in a house-hold who is above the 65 years of age as old age pension.

**Eligibility for NOAP Scheme**

The applicant should be 65 years of age or higher. The applicant must be a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources.

**Rate of Assistance**

The amount of old age pension is Rs. 200/- per month.
Selection of the beneficiary

Every eligible person may apply for the pension in the prescribed Form OAP-1 and submit the same through Gram Panchayat or Municipality as the case may be and obtain acknowledgement. Application forms can be obtained from local Mandal Parishad Office or Municipality at free of cost.

Girl Child Protection Scheme (GCPS)


Objectives of the Scheme:

- To eliminate prejudice against the girl child through direct investment from the Government.
- To encourage enrolment of the girl child in school and to ensure her education at least up to the Intermediate level.
- To encourage girls to get married only after the age of 18 years (which is the prescribed statutory limit).
- To reduce school dropout rate among the girls.
- To encourage parents to adopt family planning norms with two girl children.
- To provide social and financial empowerment to the girl child.
- Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child.
• Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls.

• Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential.

• Eliminate discrimination against girls in education and provide skill development and training.

• Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition.

• Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child.

INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment of women is the hallmark of the approach of the Government in its development initiatives (social, political and economic). The State Empowerment Policy for women aims at the following objectives:-

- Gender equality

- Gender justice

- Social security

- Elimination of discrimination against women in all walks of life

- Economic development and integration of women into main stream of economy.

As a token of state’s commitment to remove all barriers in the way of women’s participation in the main stream of development, the State Govt. declared 1997 as the year of ‘Gender Equality with Social Justice’. Steps have been taken to provide
specific provisions for women towards equality in all fields, political, social, economic and cultural.

The Department is playing a conscious role in empowering of women by striving to enforce:

- The reservation of 33 1/3rd Jobs for women in Govt. and public sector with carry forward policy.
- The 33 1/3rd of budget of all departments for developmental programmes for women.
- Implementation of Girl Child Protection Scheme.
- Opportunities to participate through mother’s committees and IGA groups.

The year 2001 has celebrated as ‘Year of Women Empowerment and the year 2003 as the Year of Adolescent Girls’.

**Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):**

This scheme was started during the year 2005-06 with an objective to encourage pregnant women for an institutional delivery in Government / Private Institution which contributes for the reduction of Maternal Mortality and Infant Mortality.

Under this scheme Rs.1000/- (Rs.700/- under JSY (GOI) + Rs.300/- under Sukhibhava (State) scheme) is being paid to rural BPL woman who under goes an institutional delivery. From 1st April 2006, JSY has been extended to BPL urban
families also. 5,00,000 beneficiaries have been covered under JSY scheme during financial year 2006-07.

vi) Free Bus Passes:

This scheme was started during the year 2005-06 with an objective to provide free travel facility to the BPL rural pregnant women in APSRTC Buses for antenatal checkups in the nearest Government/Private hospital. 8 lakhs bus passes have been distributed to the beneficiaries during 2006-07.

vii) Rural Emergency Health Transport Scheme:

This scheme was started during the year 2005-06 with an objective to provide transport to the pregnant women, infants, children and other health emergencies in rural areas to the nearest hospital to provide the emergency health care. One ambulance is provided for a population of about 1.25 to 1.5 lakh in the rural area. 122 ambulances are functioning in 4 districts i.e. Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Kurnool, Kadapa and tribal areas of 9 districts. The operationalization of the balance 310 ambulances has been entrusted to M/s Emergency Management and Research Institute which is recognized as a Nodal agency by Government. They have operationalized this scheme in 8 districts so far and complete operationalization in the remaining districts by the end of May 2007. All these ambulances are being utilized to the fullest by the rural population for all medical emergencies at free of cost.
2. Child Health Care Services

Child Health Care Services are being provided to the Infant and Children by implementing the following schemes / interventions:

- Neo-natal intensive care units
- New Born Care kits
- New Born and Neo-natal care campaign

i) Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs):

This scheme was started during the year 2006-07 with an objective to provide emergency neonatal care services to new born and neonates to reduce Infant mortality rate and to improve the quality of pediatric care services in remote, interior, tribal areas & urban areas.

It is proposed to establish 160 NICUs in A.P. State (in 13 Teaching Hospitals, 23 Dist. Hospitals, 16 Area Hospitals and 108 CEMONC centers)

- 12 Pediatricians are positioned against 124 posts sanctioned.
- Procurement of equipment for NICUs is under process.
- Two Staff Nurses and two ANMs on contract basis in each unit are being positioned.
- Proposed to provide Drugs and Consumables to each unit.
ii) New Born Care Kits:

This scheme was started during the year 2006-07 with an objective to prevent deaths from hypothermia and outside infections. Under this scheme, the kits are being supplied to low birth weight (<2000 grms) new born babies of SC/ST/BPL families, born in all government institutions.

- The Newborn Care Kit consists of 2 Baby Mattresses; 4 Baby Jacket; 3 Baby Caps; 3 pairs of Gloves; 12 Baby Diaper and 8 Baby Blankets. The Kit is sterile and would keep the baby warm and prevent death from hypothermia and outside infections.

- 52,000 new born care kits were procured and distributed to the beneficiaries during 2006-07.

- It is planned to procure 1,30,000 kits during 2007-08.

Family Planning Insurance Scheme:

This scheme was started during the year 2005 with an objective to provide insurance to sterilization acceptors.
The details of the scheme are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Issues covered</th>
<th>Limit of indemnity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Death due to sterilization operation in Hospital or within 7 days from the date of discharge from the hospital</td>
<td>Rs.2,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Death occurring due to sterilization operation between 8 to 30 days from the date of discharge from the hospital</td>
<td>Rs.50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Failure of sterilization operation (payable once only)</td>
<td>Rs.25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Expenses for treatment of medical complication due to sterilization operation (within 60 days of operation)</td>
<td>Actual subject to maximum of Rs.25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>