

Central Social Welfare Board

Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) was conceived as an institution to be instrumental in bringing the neglected, weak, handicapped and backward sections of society into the national mainstream. Established in August 1953, the Board initiated several programmes for delivering welfare services to the most backward, marginalized and deserving sections of society. As a follow up, the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards were set up with the task of implementing and monitoring of different programmes of the CSWB. Over the years, the Board has not only widened the scope of its programmes but has also moved in policy approach from welfare to development to empowerment. Today it is the pioneering national level organisation in the field of development and empowerment of women in the country.

The CSWB was also envisaged as an interface between the Government and the voluntary sector for social development in the country. It has made a signal contribution in encouraging, assisting and promoting the growth of nearly twenty five thousand voluntary organisations for reaching the neglected women and children of the country.

General Body:

- All Chairpersons of State Social Welfare Advisory Boards (30)
- Representatives from the Parliament: Lok Sabha 2 & Rajya Sabha 1
- 5 Professionals (one each from Law, Medicine, Social Work, Education and Social Development)
- 3 Eminent persons with extensive experience in social work
- Representatives from Ministries/Departments/Govt. of India Department of Women & Child Development, Department of Rural Development, Department of Education, Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Family Welfare
- Executive Director, CSWB

Executive Committee:

- Chairpersons of State Social Welfare Advisory Boards : 5 by rotation
- Representatives from Ministries/Departments of the Govt. of India Department of Women & Child Development, Deptt. of Family Welfare, Deptt. Of Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation, Deptt. of Education and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- Two Professionals
- Executive Director, CSWB

PROGRAMMES OF THE BOARD

The Board is running a number of programmes for the development of women

and children. All these programmes are fully funded by the Department.

Awareness Generation Programme for Rural and Poor Women

The scheme of Awareness Generation Programme provides a platform for the rural and poor women to come together, exchange their experience, ideas and in the process, develop an understanding of reality and also the way to tackle their problems and fulfill their needs. The programme also enables women to organise themselves and strengthen their participation in decision making in the family and in the society and to deal with social issues including atrocities on women and children.

Condensed Courses of Education for Women

The Scheme of Condensed Courses of Education for Women were started by the Central Social Welfare Board during the year 1958 with the objective of providing education to those women who for various social and economic reasons dropped out of school and could not pursue their studies. The scheme was designed particularly to benefit women like young widows, women deserted by their husbands and those belonging to economically backward classes.

Under this Scheme, grant is given to Voluntary Organisations to conduct two types of courses, one of two years duration for preparing women candidates for Primary/Middle/Matric Examination and the other of one year duration for Matric failed candidates. Girls and women of 15 years plus age groups are entitled to avail the benefit of the scheme.

Vocational Training for Women

The Central Social Welfare Board had started the scheme of Vocational Training Programme during the year 1975 to train women in the trades which are marketable and also to upgrade their skills in order to meet the demands of changing work environment. Main objective of training interventions is to enable and empower women to access remunerative employment opportunities, which will instill self-confidence and enhance their self-esteem.

From the year 1997-98, funds for Vocational Training are being provided under NORAD assisted scheme on Training and Employment of Women. The main emphasis of the programme is training and skill upgradation of women for their employment and self-employment on a sustainable basis. In view of a similar programme implemented by the Department through the Women Development Corporations of the States, CSWB concentrates mainly on the seven North Eastern States and Sikkim from where adequate number of proposals are not received through the State Governments. The network of State Social Welfare Advisory Boards and the voluntary organizations provide very useful support for running this programme.

Socio-economic Programme

The Socio-Economic Programme of the Central Social Welfare Board

endeavours to provide employment opportunities on full or part time basis to destitute women, widows, deserted and the physically handicapped, to supplement their meager family income. Besides, women entrepreneurs are encouraged to exhibit and sell their products through Exhibition-cum-Melas organised by State Boards at Distt. level. The Central Social Welfare has two different types of schemes of assistance under this Programme:

- **Agro-based Units**

The Board assists voluntary organisations for setting up agro-based units like dairy, poultry, piggery, goatery etc. for poor and needy women. However, for the past few years proposals for Agro-based Units are not being considered since another Programme of the Department of Women and Child Development, namely Support for Training and Employment of Women (STEP) is taking care of these sectors.

- **Production Units**

Voluntary organisations are encouraged to set up Production Units, which can provide employment on full or part time basis to women. Project proposals are examined by District Industrial Centres, KVICs etc. who look into viability of the projects. A grant is provided by the Board to facilitate setting up a Production Unit by the grantee institution. The grant is finalised on a case-to-case basis subject to a limit of Rs.3 lakhs.

Crèche Programme

This programme has been in operation since 1975. The scheme provides for day care services to children in the age group of 0-5 years. The facilities are provided to the children of working women belonging to economically backward sections of casual, agricultural and construction labour in remote, rural and urban slum areas. Children of sick women also get the benefit of this programme. The schematic provision for recurring grant is Rs. 18,480/- per annum per Crèche Unit of 25 children of the age group of 0-5 years.

Working Women's Hostels

Under this scheme the Board provides a maintenance grant to voluntary organisations for providing safe accommodation to working women whose salary does not exceed Rs.16,000/- p.m. so that they are not exposed to undesirable and anti-social elements. The following types of maintenance expenses are covered under the scheme:

- (i) Salary of Matron and Chowkidar
- (ii) Recreation facilities
- (iii) Difference of Rent of the Hostel building, and
- (iv) Maintenance of Hostel building

A minimum grant of Rs. 40,000/- and maximum grant of Rs.50,000/- is sanctioned

to an institution in a year keeping in view the class or category of the city.

Family Counselling Centres

The objective of the Family Counselling Centres is to provide preventive and rehabilitative services to women and children who are victims of atrocities and family maladjustments. The Scheme is being implemented since 1984 through voluntary agencies. It was evaluated through NIPCCD during the year 1990-91 and a revised scheme is in force since 1992-93. Under the revised scheme, a maximum of Rs.1 lakh per centre per annum is given for continuation of existing FCCs while Rs.1.15 lakh is given for new FCCs. The salaries of two counsellors who are either Post Graduate in Social Work or Psychology and Rs.15000/- for recurring items are borne fully the Board while the institution is required to contribute 20% towards other recurring expenditure.

Short Stay Home Programme

The scheme of Short Stay Home was launched by the Govt. of India in 1969 to provide temporary shelter to women and girls

- who are being forced into prostitution;
- who as a result of family tension or discord are made to leave their homes without any mean of subsistence and have no social protection from exploitation and are facing litigation on account of marital disputes;
- who have been sexually assaulted and are facing the problem of re-adjustment in the family or society;
- who are victims of mental mal-adjustment, emotional disturbances and social ostracism, or
- who escape from their homes due to family problems, mental or physical torture and need shelter, psychiatric treatment and counselling for their rehabilitation and re-adjustment in family and society.

This scheme was earlier being implemented directly by the Department of Women and Child Development through the Non Governmental Organisations. While the power to sanction new Homes still vests with the Department, the responsibility of supervision and monitoring of the existing Homes and release of fund to the NGOs running the Homes have been delegated to the Central Social Welfare Board from April, 1999. The financial norms and guidelines of the scheme of Short Stay Home has also been revised in June 1999 to make it more relevant and effective.