

GOAL 5 : GENDER EQUALITY



ANDHRA PRADESH

As per Andhra Pradesh's SDG Vision Document "ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030", detailing the state's strategy to achieve benchmarks for SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY, the state has focused on the following major policies and strategies-

- Streenidhi Cooperative Society has arranged INR 1000 crore interest free bank loans to SHG women for undertaking livelihood activities for diversification of income generation and micro-enterprising.
- Enforcement of AP SCSP and TSP Act 2013 along with the State's growth strategy of "20 non-negotiable commitments" on women's empowerment.
- Maa Inti Mahalaxmi Scheme for gender balance and women empowerment.
- Creating employment opportunities for women through Skill Development Mission.
- Strict implementation of national schemes such as Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Sukanaya Samridhi Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, SWADHAR, and Ujjawala Scheme etc.
- Undertaking structural reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and property, financial services inheritance, and natural resources.
- Implementation of The Sabala scheme through ICDS, aiming at providing training to out-of-school girls within the age group of 11-18 years in life management, nutrition, education, personal hygiene, and skill development. Pubescent girls are also educated regarding bodily changes, gynaecology, and other related issues.
- Formation and provision of revolving funds to 4,000 SHGs to empower the strong network of these groups in a bid to promote livelihood. Additionally,

INR 10,000 has been extended to each of the 86 lakhs SHG members to support their entrepreneurial activities, and INR 110 crore has been allocated to DWACRA women as interest-free loans.

- Increased budgetary allocation for the Department for Women, Children, Disabled, and Senior Citizens by 70%.

KARNATAKA

1. **DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD'S NATIONAL UNITY DAY (EKTA DIWAS) - WOMAN'S DAY PROGRAM -**

SDGCC team provided a session on "Addressing Gender Equality" to all department officials. The Department of Women & Child Development organised a Women's Day celebration program to speak on Goal 5 - GENDER EQUALITY, highlighting the role and empowerment of women in nation-building and progress.

UTTARAKHAND

2. **WOMEN LEADERSHIP FOR INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY WATER MANAGEMENT - (CLOSELY TIES IN WITH SDG 10)**

The transboundary Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basins provide food, water, and energy to a large population, but unregulated infrastructure developments, unsustainable land use practices and climate change pose a threat to the river system. Conflicts over natural resources cause poverty and marginalization of riverine communities, with women being adversely affected. The Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) is a regional program that facilitates community participation in water governance by helping them advocate for their rights and shape decision-making. The initiative promotes inclusive transboundary water governance, allowing women, youth, and marginalized groups to partake in decisions and policymaking undertaken by the government and the private sector. Women were educated and organized into groups and women-led citizens' forums to identify water-related issues, find solutions and participate in planning. Outreach and training activities were organized. Selected representatives were given further exposure to knowledge exchange platforms and training, on improving access to information and government schemes and programs.

MAHARASHTRA

3. TESTA - STAKEHOLDER COLLECTIVE TO ADDRESS SEX TRAFFICKING -

It aims to address issues of sex trafficking by enhancing collaboration and coordination among critical stakeholders from Protection, Law enforcement and Judiciary for effective rehabilitation of victims and prosecution of the perpetrator. STCI's Multi-stakeholder partnership intervention is designed to increase convictions in trafficking cases by ensuring the engagement of the victim in the rehabilitation and prosecution process. It is based on the Collective Impact Mode which ensures the commitment of different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem, using a structured form of collaboration.

STCI conducted a study on 'Socio-Legal Factors Impacting Prosecution of Trafficking Crimes in Maharashtra' based on the experiences of 60 stakeholders engaged in 20 cases at various levels, highlighting social and legal factors that impact the success or failure of the prosecution. The project brought together representatives from the Police department, Prosecution, Judiciary, NGOs, the Department of Women and Child Development, Paralegal Volunteers, Lawyers associated with the District Legal Services Authority, Government's Rehabilitation Homes, the District Child Protection Unit etc. The multi-stakeholders meet every month to discuss cases and interventions using the case management approach. It tracks and monitors the development of each case systematically. The M & E team has developed tools like victim participation index, and accountability matrix to record the instances and level of engagement of those always involved. Victim Witness Protection was established with a 'Victim Protection Room' within court premises so that victim-witnesses are not adversely influenced and testify truthfully.

It has resulted in speedy disposal of justice, identification of repeat offenders and re-trafficked victims and higher conviction rates with bails not being granted as liberally. Victims have received legal assistance from government-empaneled lawyers who represent victims in court and assist in the prosecution of offenders in sex-trafficking cases and get regular formal education. Officers within the justice delivery mechanism contribute to the efficacy and success of prosecution.

TELANGANA

As per Telangana's SDG Implementation Document 2018, the state's strategy to achieve benchmarks for SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY, the state has focused on the following major policies and strategies-

- ICDS
- Girl Child Protection Scheme
- Kalyan Lakshmi / Shaadi Mubarak
- AASARA Pensions for widows;
- Aarogya Lakshmi
- Sthree Nidhi
- Safety and security of Women (She teams)
- Pension Scheme for Single / Destitute Women

PUNJAB

4. **MAA-BETI CHOWK AND SAKSHAM-BETI CHOWK (FEROZEPUR) -**

Implemented by the Department of Social Security and Women & Child Development, two statues have been installed at the prime roundabout of Ferozepur under this initiative. The first one is called the MAA-BETI CHOWK, it is located at the entrance of Ferozepur City, the statue represents the basic right of girl childbirth.

The initiative aims at changing the attitude of people toward girl childbirth, eradicating female feticide, and providing equal opportunities to girls in education.

5. **ACHIEVING "BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO" (BBBP) GOALS THROUGH INNOVATIVE METHODS -**

Several innovative initiatives under the BBBP guidelines have been undertaken by the Department of Women and Child Development at village/block/district and state levels.

- 'MERI PEHCHAN' photo gallery, FEROZEPUR - a photo gallery was set up in the District Administration Complex to facilitate local girl champions of

the district who has made a mark in the fields of academics, sports, music, etc.

- 'LAADO GAMES', LUDHIANA - held to instill the spirit of sportsmanship in girls and boost their physical fitness and overall well-being.
- NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATIONS - Innovative practices that highlight the need to fight against social ills like female feticide and infanticide, and patterns of gender discrimination and stereotyping.
- SANGRUR - displays pictures of girl achievers who excel at international levels on walls of flyovers.

Apart from the aforementioned Best Practices, Punjab has also taken additional initiatives to help needy, poor and vulnerable children by fulfilling basic needs, providing education and securing the future of girl children, thus linking SDGs 5 (GENDER EQUALITY) and 10 (REDUCED INEQUALITIES) :

- '**AVSAR PROJECT**' - enrollment of child beggars in schools.
- '**NIKKE SAPNE**' - interacting with and motivating children through video calls with eminent personalities.
- '**ASHA PROJECT**' - Association of Smile, Happiness and Aspiration Project identifies needy and poor children, provides them with Aadhar cards, and admits them to schools and Anganwadi centres.
- '**SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA**' - Bank accounts opened for girl children with Rs. 250 directly deposited every month.
- '**CHILD-FRIENDLY POLICE STATION**' - Initiated to make justice more approachable, Punjab's first child-friendly police station was established in collaboration with the District Police Department, Bachpan Bachao Andolan and District Child Protection Office, Fatehgarh Sahib.
- '**CRADLE**' - To take care of abandoned infants, parents can anonymously place their children in Cradle with no legal ramifications instead of abandoning their infants on the roadside, in gushes, garbage, etc.

HARYANA

6. **ARRESTING THE DECLINE IN SEX RATIO AT BIRTH -**

Coordinated Implementation of the **PC&PNDT Act** and '**BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO**' (**BBBP**) Campaign -

The BBBP Campaign gave a newfound purpose to the implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act. The core objective of the PC&PNDT Act-BBBP Campaign is to devise a multi-pronged strategy to counter patriarchal mindsets and to organise gender sensitization

drives, ensure the survival of every girl child by protecting her rights from birth to death, and strict surveillance from the prenatal stage to prevent misuse of any diagnostic techniques.

Awareness campaigns aimed at sensitization and counseling of various stakeholders. Pregnant and lactating mothers were closely monitored by Auxiliary nurses and midwives (ANMs) and ASHA workers. Radio talks, advertisements, and public hoardings were used to impart cultural sensibilities to parents and grandparents. Regular meetings and rallies were conducted at village/ block/ district levels. School and college youth were involved in related rallies. Law enforcement agencies worked in tandem to create legal awareness of prohibited and punitive acts. The state also barred the sale of sex-selective drugs and the sale of MTP kits without the prescription of registered medical practitioners (RMPs). The health department, police and law implementers take collaborative action to conduct intra-state and inter-state raids.

Efforts continue to district media for advocacy via a 360-degree approach that focuses on positive reinforcement of girl children, and sustained local -level engagement with the community.

TRIPURA

As per the Draft Vision 2030 document, detailing Tripura's 7- year strategy to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, the state has focused on the following-

- Effective and timely implementation of schemes for girls education like Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) as well as the National program for Education of Girls at the elementary Level (NPEGEL)
- Improvement in women's employment for economic upliftment
- Women empowerment socially through the awareness campaign
- Timely and proper investigation to improve the conviction rate of genuine cases of crime against women
- Inclusion of more women in executives & legislature and entrepreneurship for empowerment
- Social sector schemes like Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY), Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS), Supplementary Nutrition program (SNP) etc. that require to be implemented within the timeline in all districts

- Increase in the number of women police stations and women police personnel for dealing the women related crimes
- Encouraging micro-financing among all women SHGs.

WEST BENGAL

7. **MULTI- STAKEHOLDER INTERVENTIONS TO ENSURE DIGNITY TO THE FURTHEST BEHIND** - (CLOSELY TIES IN WITH SDGs **2, 8, 12 AND 16**) -

The project aims at mainstreaming rehabilitated and vulnerable women from trafficking by empowering them and providing them dignity and financial independence in key skills like tailoring, block printing, silk screen printing, etc. for manufacturing sustainable products and creating market linkages through collaborations. They have partnered with various exhibitions, corporate houses, and universities to promote these tote bags and the knick-knacks to be sold and given out at special concessions. The objectives are:

- To generate livelihood and thereby financial inclusion for these women
- To Collaborate with multi-stakeholder institutions for market linkages thereby enabling the last-mile reach of the SDGs
- To ensure a just, equal, fair, replicable socio-economic-environmental collaborative model that recognizes the power of self-dignity and self-reliance across various social strata.

CHHATTISGARH

8. **'ASHA – EK UMEED KI KIRAN'** -

The Aspirational District of Kondagaon established the 'Asha Centre' to empower local women by providing employment. The Centre is operated in collaboration with the District Project Livelihood College and the District Skill Development Authority. The centre comprises five units - Garments Stitching Training-cum-Production Unit, Handloom Weaving Training-cum-Production Unit, Sanitary Pads Production Unit, Glass Bangles Designing Training-cum-Production Unit and LED Bulb Repair, Assembling Training-cum-Production Unit. Only women are inducted as trainees or beneficiaries. The Centre provides free Skill Development Training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Mukhya Mantri

Kaushal Vikas Yojana (MMKVY). The duration of these courses varies from 2 to 4 months, post which the trained candidates are employed for production of finished products like Cloths, Sanitary Pads and Glass Bangles within the training centre.

The main objectives of the initiative are to:

- Increase employability of women in all categories and age groups
- Generate awareness about various government schemes
- Empower women of the district as many of them have started earning their livelihoods
- Connect remote areas with the mainstream.

ODISHA

As per Odisha's SDG Indicator Framework Document, some state-sponsored schemes implemented to achieve benchmarks for SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY include -

- Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana,
- Construction of Working women's Hostels,
- Support to Social Welfare Board for Awareness Campaign on declining child sex ratio,
- Biju Sishu Surakshya Yojana,
- SAMMPURNA,
- Financial Assistance to WSHGs & their Federations under Mission Shakti,
- MAMATA,
- ICDS, etc.

RAJASTHAN

9. RAJASTHAN WATER SECTOR LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT -

Implemented by The Water Resource State Department, this project focuses on gender mainstreaming through amendment of "Rajasthan farmers participation in management of irrigation system Act 2000 (RFPMIS Act 2000)" enabling women to become members of the water users association and also play a leadership

role in water management. The project also focuses on developing gender perspectives and building gender response and action plans.

UTTAR PRADESH

10. **GOMAY UTTPAD** -

Programs were organized by women of self-help groups in the district of Farrukhabad, in which products of an environmentally friendly nature were prepared. The work of making Gomay uttpad was started by the women of the group on Deepawali. The group's women and rural youth have been positively affected by this work. The program created employment opportunities for women and cow protection. The economic condition of about 100 women associated with this work in the district is also strengthening, ensuring economic prosperity among them, which is changing their social status.

11. **MISSION SHAKTI** -

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, all the girls of the Kannauj district in the age group of 6-14 are being provided free and quality education by the Council in the schools run in the district, in which the girls of every section of the society were given primary and upper primary education to promote self-reliance and equality.

BENEFITS -

- Increased awareness of girl education in all classes
- Increased self- confidence in girls
- Increase in decision and leadership capacity

JHARKHAND

As per the Jharkhand Vision & Action Plan 2021, Jharkhand's best practices, policies and strategies to achieve benchmarks for SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY, are mentioned as follows-

- 'Pehle Padhai, Phir Bidai' campaign, aimed at the promotion of education of girl child will be continued to raise awareness, increase enrolment and reduce dropout.

- Awareness generation about Child Helpline
- Strengthening institutional care under Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)
- Solar Mamas SHGs, Gumla - the District Administration, an international NGO, Barefoot College organised local women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and trained them with skills needed for fabrication of solar panels, lights and photovoltaic circuits. The first phase involved solar electrification of 150 unelectrified households. Women were also trained to practice sustainable livelihoods like beekeeping and coffee plantation.
- Performance rating system of service delivery points (AWCs, institutional care points under ICPS, Women hostels and other service institutions) linked with positive reinforcements
- Intensive awareness generation on nutrition, child protection, women empowerment and social security schemes
- Formation of women SHGs and the Sakhi Mandal for livelihood alternatives together with Women Empowerment.

NORTH-EAST

12. Self-employment and self-reliance amongst young rural women

— Sikkim

Via provision of technical and financial support to a women's group in Menglee, a district in South Sikkim to start a manufacturing unit for low-cost sanitary pads, this intervention aimed at promoting livelihoods and income generation, promoting menstrual hygiene among rural women. Accordingly, Suraksha Self-help Group (SHG) was formed with 11 members and saw the birth of 'Suraksha' sanitary pads. Post initial technical and financial support, the SHG has become self-sufficient and has initiated branding of their product.

13. Exposure Visit/ Education Tour of Rural Women — Arunachal Pradesh

The government of Arunachal Pradesh is providing financial assistance to the NGOs/SHGs to undertake Exposure Visit and Educational Tours of Women Groups to historical, cultural and economically developed places in different parts of the country under the "Scheme for Empowerment" to -

- inculcate awareness among the rural women about implementation of various women welfare and empowerment programs so that they are fully

conversant with activities carried out by SHGs to maintain their cultural heritage, economic upliftment etc.

- visit and get insight on some income generation activities conducted by other organizations
- visit model cooperative to learn about its governance and progress
- Promote national integration