



Chapter-1

Introduction

Women, who number 498.7 million according to 2001 census, represent 48.2 per cent of the country's population of 1027.01 million. Children below the age of 6 years number about 157.86 million, accounting for 15.42% of the country's population. Their holistic development in terms of materials, resources, programmes and policies is the broad mandate of the working of the Department of Women and Child Development under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.



Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister for Human Resource Development addressing the winners of National Awards for Child Welfare and Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award for Service to Children and others on Universal Children's Day 2003.

1.1.2 The Department continued to remain under the overall charge of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development. He was assisted by Smt. Jaskaur Meena, Minister of State.

1.1.3 Dr. R.V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar remained the Secretary of the Deptt. upto 31.7.2003. Smt. Kasturi Gupta Menon took charge of the Department thereafter on 4.8.2003.

1.1.4 The Department is divided into three Bureaux, each Bureau headed by a Joint Secretary namely; (i) Child Development (ii) Child Welfare and (iii) Women's Development and Women's Welfare. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission one post of Joint Secretary was

abolished w.e.f. 30.10.2002. The work relating to Plan, Coordination and Research was under the charge of the Economic Adviser while the work relating to Accounts and Audit was under the charge of the Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser who looked after the work of this Department in addition, to his responsibilities in other departments under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. An organogram of the Deptt. is at **Annexure-I.**

1.2.1 The Department has under its aegis one statutory body and three autonomous organizations, namely: (a) **Statutory Body** : National Commission for Women (b) **Autonomous Organisations** (1) National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), (2) Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and (3) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK).

The following functions fall under the jurisdiction of the Deptt. of Women and Child Development under the Allocation of Business Rules dated 6.1.2004:-

1. Welfare of the family,
2. Women and Child Welfare and co-ordination of activities of other Ministries and Organisations in connection with this subject;
3. References from the United Nations Organisations relating to traffic in women and children
4. Care of pre-school children
5. National Nutrition Policy, National Plan of Action for Nutrition and National Nutrition Mission
6. Charitable and religious endowments pertaining to subjects allocated to this Department,
7. Promotion and development of voluntary effort on subjects allocated to this Department,
8. Implementation of,
 - (a) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (as amended upto 1986);
 - (b) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act 1986 (60 of 1986);
 - (c) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (as amended upto 1986);
 - (d) The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988) excluding the administration of criminal justice in regard to offences under this Act.
9. Implementation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992).
10. Coordination of activities of Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE),
11. 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.
12. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
13. Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)
14. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)
15. Food and Nutrition Board
16. (i) Development and popularisation of subsidiary and protective foods
(ii) Nutrition extension
17. Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity
18. National Commission for Women,
19. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.



1.2.2 While the NIPCCD and RMK are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, the CSWB is a charitable company registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. The National Commission for Women has been set up under the National Commission for Women Act 1990.

1.3.1 The Food and Nutrition Board was transferred to the Department of Women and Child Development from the Ministry of Food w.e.f 1st April, 1993 in pursuance of the National Nutrition Policy.

1.4.1 The Department had a BE of Rs. 2653.91 crore including a Non Plan allocation of Rs. 53.91 crore during the year 2003-04. However, the Plan allocation was reduced to Rs. 2150.00 crore at RE stage due to resource constraints. In spite of this, every effort was made to ensure that resources were used in the most productive manner so as to maximize their usefulness to the beneficiaries (**Annexure-II**). Several procedural improvements were also introduced to increase the participation of states in the selection of projects/beneficiaries as discussed in the subsequent chapters dealing with the schemes and programmes of the Department.

1.5.1 The Standing Committee of the Parliament attached to the Ministry of Human Resource Development took oral evidence of the Secretary (WCD) on the Demands for Grants of this Department for 2003-04 on 28th March, 2003. An oral presentation on the question of Gender Analysis of the Budget was made before the Committee by the Secretary (WCD) on 30th April, 2003. The Committee undertook field visits to Mumbai (29-30 September, 2003) and Bangalore

(14-15 January, 2004) to take the oral evidence of the stake holders on micro credit facilities for women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with the involvement of the Department.

1.6.1 The Composition of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women during 2003-04 is at **Annexure-III**. This Committee presented the following reports during 2003-04.

1. 12th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 5th Report on Functioning of Family Courts.
2. 13th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 4th Report on Health and Family Welfare Programmes for Women.
3. 14th Report on the action taken by the government on the Committee's 6th Report on Education Programmes for Women.
4. 15th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 7th Report on Training Programmes for Women.
5. 16th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 8th Report on Training and Empowerment of Women in Local Bodies.
6. 17th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Committee's 9th Report on Violence Against Women during Riots.
7. 18th Report on functioning of Self-Help Groups for Economic Empowerment of Women.

1.7.1 Action Taken Notes on the points relevant to this Department are in progress.

1.8.1 The following review meetings were held with Secretaries in charge of Women and Child Development in States during the year under report:-

1. Issues relating to North Eastern States including Sikkim were focused in the meeting held at Guwahati on the 28-29, May 2003. While the meeting with the Ministers in charge of Women and Child Development on the 29th May, 2003 was presided over by MOS (HRD), the Secretary level meeting on the 28th May, 2003 was presided over by the Secretary (WCD).
2. HRM took a meeting with Ministers in charge of Women and Child Development of Northern States in New Delhi on 23rd June, 2003
3. A review meeting involving all Secretaries in charge of Women and Child Development in States was taken by Secretary(WCD) on the 15-16 October, 2003.

1.8.2 These meetings focused on issues like timely operationalisation of all sanctioned ICDS projects, timely payment of arrears of honoraria to Anganwadi Workers, training of ICDS functionaries and adequate budgetary provision for supplementary nutrition in States, implementation of grants-in-aid schemes for women programmes etc.

1.8.3 A meeting to review the Master Plan of Operations under UNICEF with concerned Union Departments and State Governments was held in September, 2003 when details of

operational strategies and success stories were discussed.

Highlights

1.9.1 In order to provide insurance coverage to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, a new scheme named “**Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana**” is proposed to be launched w.e.f. 1.4.2004.

1.9.2 The decline in female sex ratio brought out by Census 2001 in certain parts of the country has been a matter of concern to this Department. In order to combat the evil effect of female foeticide, a nation wide campaign known as “**Manvi Sanrakshan Abhiyan**” was launched through the Central Social Welfare Board and its branches all over the country.

1.9.3 **A National Nutrition Mission** has been set up and notified on 31.3.03 with a view to address the problems arising from malnutrition in a holistic manner, particularly among women and children.

1.9.4 With a view to prevent the misuse of the then existing provisions under the Infant Milk Food Substitutes Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992 by multi national companies, **an amendment was enacted on 2/6/04** to promote exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of the life of a child and supplementary feeding after that up to two years and beyond. Certain curbs have been introduced in the promotion of infant foods at par with infant milk substitutes in so far as advertisement and other promotion campaigns are concerned.



1.9.5 **National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding** were developed and circulated among the states for their implementation through the field infrastructure.

1.9.6 The Department participated in the **25th Session of the Codex Committee** on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) held at Bonn from 3-7 November, 2003.

1.9.7 **Additional anganwadi centers were sanctioned in Jammu and Kashmir** to increase employment avenues in the State under Prime Minister's Employment package for Jammu

1.9.8 A Bill to constitute the **National Commission for Children** was framed and laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 5.12.2003.

1.9.9 **The National Charter for Children** highlighting the roles and responsibilities of both the Govt. and the community towards children and duties of children towards their family, community and society was notified in the official Gazette of India on 9th February, 2004.

1.9.10 **The National Awards for Children** for the years 2001 and 2002 were distributed in a function organized at the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi on 14th November, 2003, along with the celebration of the Universal Children's Day.