

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

WELFARE DIVISION

Department of SC and ST was created in 1978 to look after the welfare of SC and ST in Sikkim. The department of Women & Child Development was amalgamated with Welfare Department in 2000 and renamed as Social Welfare Department with three divisions. 1. Welfare Division 2. Social Welfare Division 3. Women & Child Welfare Division and 3. WSomen & Child Welfare Division. The department looks after the welfare of SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, old and disabled and Women and Child. The main functions of the department are as under:-

1. Welfare Division

1. All matters concerned with welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities by providing Economic and Educational Development Schemes, assistance to Vocational Training and Voluntary organizations concerned with the betterment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities.
2. Pre-matric Scholarship schemes.
3. Post-matric Scholarship to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
4. Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes.
5. Special Component for Scheduled Castes.
6. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Boards.
7. Commission for Backward Classes.
8. Monitoring and evaluation of schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
9. Sikkim SC, ST and OBC Development Corporation.
10. Monitoring for Prime Minister's 20 point programmes for the development of SC and ST.

2. Social Welfare Division

1. Welfare of handicapped persons, Old Age Pension, subsistence allowance and voluntary organizations working in the field of social welfare.
2. Implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, amended Act 2000 Persons with disabilities (equal opportunities Promotion of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995.
3. Implementation of other extended and enforced Welfare Acts.

3. Women & Child Development Division

1. Nutrition.
2. Integrated Child Development Service (Scheme).
3. Women Welfare : Widows/Destitute.
4. Welfare of children in view of care and protection.
5. Welfare of widows of Non-Pensioner ex-servicemen.
6. Central & State schemes relating to women and children.
7. Sikkim State Social Welfare Advisory Board.
8. Sikkim State Commission for Women.
9. Sikkim State Commission for Children.
10. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

11. Monitoring & Evaluation of the Schemes of ICDS, children and women.
12. UNICEF assisted projects/ programmes.
13. Sikkim State Plan of Action for children.
14. Administration of both the Central and State Acts on the subject.
15. Old Age Home.
16. National Policy on Older Persons.
17. National Policy on Empowerment of Women, 2001.

SC, ST AND OBC IN SIKKIM

SCHEDULED CASTES

The four main Scheduled Castes in the State are Kami, Damai, Sarki and Maji who practice traditional occupation viz. Blacksmithy, tailoring, tanning and fishing respectively. They are not confined to any particular district and are scattered all over the State. The district wise distribution of SC population is 3.55 % in the North District, 5.64 % in South District, 7 % in East district and 5 % in West District. They are predominantly agriculturist and also depend on animal husbandry to support their family. According to 1980-agricultural census, only 1.62 % of the total operated area is owned by SCs. Hence they get a low return from the agriculture.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

The Scheduled Tribes population of Sikkim constitute mainly the Lepchas and Bhutias. By the Sikkim Scheduled Tribes order, 1978, Bhutias and Lepchas have been recognized as Scheduled Tribes in the State. Bhutias include Yolmo, Kagatey, Tromopa, Dukpa, Sherpa, Dophthapa Chumbipa and Tibetan. The district wise distribution of ST population is 19.03% in North District, 41.40% in East District, 21.23% in West District and 18.34% in South District. Except in North District, where tribals live in compact areas, tribals in Sikkim are widely dispersed in habitation. They are mingled with the general population in varying degree of concentration in various villages and hamlets. Taking the family size as 5, it is estimated that there are about 18000 tribal families in the State, Majority of the tribals depend on agriculture and animal husbandry for their livelihood.

TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP)

Specific programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes under the Tribal Sub-Plan have been implemented since 1979-80 with a view to ensuring that these segments or the community are provided full benefits from the developmental efforts especially in the area of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Health, Education and Vocational programmes to provide supplementary income.

There are 4 ITDPs in the State covering 77 blocks in three districts and the whole of North District. Scheduled Tribe population in the TSP area is 17,301, i.e 19.03 % of the total population of the State. 58.3 % of the Tribal Population of the State are residing outside the ITDP areas. In each district there is a Welfare Officer who is declared as drawing and disbursing officer for all the schemes to be implemented in consultation with other sectoral departments. The Welfare officers are represented as District authorities for all district level meetings.

SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES

1. PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

The main thrust of the Department is to improve literacy level of both ST and SC population. In order to encourage the SC/ST students the Department has been granting scholarships to ST/SC students according to the guidelines of Government of India. The prevailing rates of Pre-matric scholarships are as follows:-

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. Pre-LKG to Class IV | Rs. 360/- per student per academic year |
| 2. Class V to VIII | Rs. 480/- per student per academic year |
| 3. Class IX to X | Rs. 850/- -do- |

2. POST - MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Class XI & XII | Rs. 1250/- per student per year |
| 2. Graduation degree within the state | Rs. 1850/- -do- |
| 3. Graduation degree outside the state | Rs. 2500/- -do- |
| 4. Engineering and medical degree | Rs. 3400/- -do- |

3. SCHOLARSHIPS TO MONASTIC STUDENTS :

Besides pre-matric & post matric scholarships, scholarship are also provided to tribal students studying in the monastic schools spread over whole of Sikkim at the rate of RS. 250/- per year/per student.

4. PRE-MATRIC AND POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO OBC STUDENTS

The Department has also introduced the scheme of pre matric and post matric scholarships to deserving and meritorious OBC students since the year 2000. The post matric is 100% centrally sponsored scheme. However the funding pattern of pre-matric scholarship is 50:50% (i.e. 50% Central share and 50% state share)

5. VOCATIONAL TRAINING

With a view to update new skills to ST/SC and OBC students, new scheme of vocational training has been introduced from 1995-96 viz. Computer Hardware and Software, repair of electronic goods, cutting and tailoring, motor driving training, interior decoration & designing, stuff toys making etc.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Welfare Department has been implementing various programmes in Tribal and Scheduled Castes populated areas to improve their economic conditions. These schemes are in addition to the various schemes being implemented by different Sectoral Departments.

The Special Central Assitance (SCA) to TSP of the Statte implementing the plan is linked to the Government of India strategy for socio economic development of ST people. The main objective of providing this grant to the state is to give additional thrust to the development programmes which can help in increasing the productivity and thereby income of the ST people.

The implementation of all the departmental schemes under the State Plan is executed through the Project Director and Welfare Officer in the District. Implementation of schemes funded out of SCA to TSP and SCP is done in consultation with the sectoral departments under the monitoring and supervision of welfare officers. The Department has felt the need to adopt Maharastra Model for effective implementation of TSP and SCP in the state.

WELFARE BOARD

Government has constituted separate Welfare Boards for ST/SC and OBC to advise the Govt. for implementation of various programmes for the weaker sections of the population.

OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

On the recommendation of Mandal Commission, the Welfare Department issued notification on 2/6/94 declaring the following communities as Socially and Educationally Backward or Other Back Ward Classes:

1. Bhujal 2. Gurung 3. Limboo 4. Mangar 5. Rai 6. Sunuwar and 7. Tamang.

After having examined the recommendation of the First Report of the Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes under the chairmanship of Justice M.L. Shrimal, the State Government vide Notification No. 236/SW/25113WD dated 15/6/2000, has recognized and declared the following communities as Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SCEBC) or Other Backward Classes (OBC) of the State of Sikkim, namely:

1. Thami, 2. Jogi, 3. Dewan.

The first Sikkim Commission for Backward classes headed by Justice M.L. Shrimal submitted their report to Government in June 1998. State Govt. has reconstituted the Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes on 5/8/98 to examine the requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward classes in the Schedule and hear complains of wrong inclusion or non-inclusion of any backward class and tender such advice to the State Government as it deems appropriate.

RESERVATION IN SERVICES:

Welfare Department issued notification dated 1/7/95 making reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs in posts and services to be filled up by direct recruitment under the Government of Sikkim and Public Sector Undertaking and for allotment of Seats in educational institutions for professional courses as under:

1. SC	-	6%
2. ST	-	23%
3. OBC	-	21%

Based on Central Government guidelines and on the recommendation of Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes, Welfare Department notified the creamy layer in the list of other backward classes. Notification has also been issued regarding issue of certificate to OBCs. No survey has been made regarding the population of OBC. The percentage of OBCs in Sikkim approximately 40% of the total population.

AGE RELAXATION

State Government has relaxed the upper age limit for the candidates belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs of the State in services/posts to be filled up by direct recruitment w .e. f 12/8/96 as under:

- I. For Scheduled Castes - by 5 years
- II. For Scheduled Tribes - by 5 years
- III. For Other Backward Classes by 3 years

SIKKIM SC, ST AND OBC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Under the directive of the Central Government, the Government of Sikkim has set up Sikkim SC, ST and OBC Development Corporation Ltd. With an authorized share capital of Rs. 10.00 crores for providing cheap financial assistance to all the backward section of SC, ST and OBC population of the State at low interest. The Ministry of Welfare, Government of India and Government of Sikkim hold 49% and 51 % of share capital respectively. The Corporation started operating from July 1996. The Corporation is the State Channelling Agency for facilitating and promoting economic and developmental activities, skill development and self employment ventures for the benefit of low income group belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs of Sikkim.

Activities financed by the Corporation is as under:

- (a) Agriculture and Allied activities such as purchase of agriculture machinery and implements, goatary, poultry, dairy, piggery, cardamom and ginger cultivation etc.
- (b) Artesian and traditional occupation such as handicrafts, carpet weaving, tailoring, blacksmithy, beauty parlour.
- (c) Technical trades, self employment such as iron fabrications, Xerox machines, dry cleaning, photo-studio etc.
- (d) Small business such as general provision store, grocery, manihari shop, readymade garments.
- (e) Transport services such as Commander Jeeps, Tata Trucks, Maruti Vans, etc.
- (f) Conversion of building into Guest House/Hotels and restaurants.

SABCCO has adopted various methods to enhance recovery of loans and has shown improvement to some extent. There are better prospects of recovery in future.

The methods adopted by the Corporation for recovery of loans are as under:

- (i) Regular monthly recovery drives conducted by the Field Officers.
- (ii) Default Review Meetings conducted with the loanees.
- (iii) Co-operation have been sought from various concerned Departments to insist individuals for production of "No Objection Certificate" from SABCCO during the time of renewing trade licenses for hotels, restaurants, businesses and issuing fitness certificates to taxi loanees.
- (iv) Further, SABCCO has been insisting on Salary Deduction Undertaking or Departmental Undertaking from Government employees willing to stand surety for the loans being availed of by their close relatives and friends. This has been a great help in boosting recovery.
- (v) The SABCCO has started taking defaulting loanees to court for the recovery of dues under Lok Adalat and SPDR Act.

GUIDELINES FOR RELEASE AND UTILIZATION OF GRANTS UNDER PROVISIO 1st OF ARTICLE 275 (1) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

In the changed scenario of globalization and liberalization of the national economy, it becomes all the more critical that the comparative vulnerability of the ST population is addressed in a more focused and integrate manner. In view of the human development indices of the tribal population being lower than the rest of the population and the infrastructure in the tribal areas not being at par with others, it is necessary to dovetail and direct resources in a synergetic manner to bridge the gap in infrastructure in critical areas so that capacity of the Economy in the tribal areas to meaningfully and effectively absorb funds is substantially enhance. In supercession of the circulars/letters/guidelines issued earlier on the subject mentioned above, the following guidelines are hereby framed for utilization of grants released to the State Government under proviso 1 of the article 275(1) of the constitution of India.

- i) Grants under article 275(1) will be an additional to normal central assistance (MCA) to state plans to meet the cost of such schemes/projects as may be undertaken by the States and approved by the ministry of tribal affairs for the purpose of welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes or rising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas.
- ii) The grants will essentially be used for creation and up gradation of critical infrastructure required to bring the tribal areas at par with the rest of the country. The infrastructure will upgraded so as to enhance the capacity of the economy in tribal areas to meaningfully and more effectively absorb funds, including institutional finance and there by create opportunities conducive to income and employment generation. Due emphasis will be given to infrastructure in the sectors critical to enhance ment of human development indices such as in health, education, income generation, etc.
- iii) The specific projects/schemes along with physical and financial plans showing sector wise and year wise phasing of activities for funding under article 275(1) should form and integrate part of the overall TSP and, therefore, be prepared along with the annual plan of the state. The entire TSP of each of the state would be discussed and approved by the ministry, preferably at the time of finalization of the annual plan of the state. The flow of funds under article 275(1) to the relevant sectors in each of the state would be determined and approved accordingly.
- iv) Peoples' participation is the central thread around which the entire fabric of tribal development is to be woven. The approach towards tribal development should, therefore, should ensure harnessing these extra ordinary strength of community living/ participation inherited inculcated by the Tribal population. While planning and implementing the schemes out of the branch under article 257(1), due regard should be given to the provisions of the panchayat acts, 1992 and of the panchayats (extension to the scheduled areas) act, 1996.
- v) Adoption of an integrated and holistic approach for preparing micro plans for ITDP/MADA/Clusters through multi disciplinary teams is sine qua-non-for effective targeting of the projects/schemes. The long-term micro-plans, showing year-wise and sector-wise physical and financial components, should earmark the funds flowing from the State Plan, SCA, Article 275(1) and under various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes of different Ministries of the Central Government.
- vi) Each State, Region, ITDA, MADA and Cluster requires a specific plan, based on the felt local needs such as low literacy, poor health services, critical gaps in sectors like irrigation, roads, bridges, electricity, technical/vocational institutes; forests, sports promotion, etc. Efforts should, therefore, be made to identify thrust areas for each ITDA, MADA and Cluster and on that basis for the region or the State, as a whole.
- vii) The thrust so identified should form central theme of the planning and specific projects accordingly prepared. Attempts should be made to dovetail resources available so as to ensure perceptible

changes in the tribal areas as against the practice of spreading resources too thin under sectoral programmes in a disintegrated fashion.

- viii) Expenditure on items recurring in nature is strictly prohibited. However, an amount maximum up to 2% of the Grant may be used for project management, training, M'S, administrative expenses and monitoring and evaluation.
- ix) The concerns/issues effecting women should occupy central position in preparation of the projects /schemes, including the involvement of women right from planning to the implementation stage. The projects should be so planned that substantial benefits, at least 30% in proportion, are targeted for women.
- x) It has been observed that the finance or the Planning Departments of various States often take a long time in release of funds to the implementing agencies, thereby defeating the vary purpose of adopting a project approach. The release of funds by the Ministry would, therefore, be strictly linked to the actual performance in the implementation of the schemes, including timely submission of utilization certificate.
- xi) On the basis of ITDA-wise integrated plans prepared through micro-planning, projects can be taken up to bridge the gap in infrastructure in critical areas such as education, health, SSIs, forests, forest villages, drinking water, electrification, communication, rural marketing, agriculture, animal husbandry, sports promotion, food processing, processing of MFPS, human resource development in technical and vocational spheres, water harvesting, resettlement of displaced persons, tribal land management, etc. Needless to add, only those projects will be approved which fulfil the broad parameter as enumerated in these guidelines and are normally not specifically taken up under the State Plan or other schemes of different Ministries of the Government of India. The maintenance of infrastructure maximum up to 10% of the entitlement of the State would also be permissible, subject to prior approval of the Ministry on the proposal.
- xii) The initiative for imparting quality education to the tribal students through 82 Model Residential Schools started in the IXth Five Year Plan Period would be continued as far as establishment of these schools are concerned and proportionate recurring and non-recurring norms. The other academic institutions with similar objectives such as Navodaya Vidhyalays would also be supported, if such Vidhyalays are set up for tribal students.
- xiii) The TSP component of various departments/sectors under the State Plan should be put in a different Demand Head in the budget of the Tribal development Department of the State. Am amount equivalent to 10% of the total allocation under Article 275(1) will be earmarked and retained at the Ministry's level. This amount will further be allocated for innovative projects amongst only those Sates, who adopt the TSP approach in letter and in sprit by ensuring that the entire TSP funds, at least in equal proportion to the population of tribals in the State, are placed in one budget head under the administrative control of the Tribal Development Department of the State Government for more integrated and focused planning and implementation of projects/schemes. This 10% earmarked fund will be used as an instrument to bring about changes in the institutional framework for adoption of TSP and be allocated only amongst the States actually releasing, in the previous financial year, at least more than 75 % of the approved Tribal Sub-Plan funds to the implementing agencies through the budget head of the Tribal Development department of the State. In case of the tribal majority States, utilization of 75 % of the grants released under the Central Sector Schemes of this Ministry would qualify for consideration of innovative projects.

- xiv) The remaining 90% of the funds will be allocated amongst the States on the basis of the ST population in each State as a percentage to the total tribal population of the country.

MEASURES TAKEN BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM FOR PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs & STs.

The SCs & STs (POA) Act, 1989.

1. Provision of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act' 1989 has been translated into the regional languages (Nepali version) and widely circulated among the Panchayats, Collectorate offices, NGOs and member of SCs & STs families.
2. In order to improve awareness about the Provisions of SCs & STs (POA) Act 1989 among the members of SCs & STs as well as implementing authorities, some Publicity Material has been displayed through hoardings at important public places, like Courts, Police stations, District Headquarters etc.

The text of the Hoarding material are as follows ;

- a) Any action derogatory to human dignity, such as forced feeding of obnoxious substance, forcible public parade, removing cloths, etc.
- b) Forced to do 'Beggar' or wrongful dispossession from land, building, etc.
- c) Outrage the modesty of a women and their sexual exploitation.
- d) Use of force or intimidation affecting the voting behavior.
- e) False, malicious and vexatious legal proceedings, etc.
- f) Denial of any customary right of passage to a public place.

Please report to the nearest Police Station for initiating legal action under the provisions of the Schedule castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

In case you are satisfied with the action taken by the officer in charge of the Police Station on your complaint, please write to the district Magistrate or District Superintendent of Police. If still unsatisfied, please contact or write to the National Commission for Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes, Govt. of India, 51h floor Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi - 110 003. You may also Fax your complaint on Fax No. 100/4625378.

If you are a victim of atrocity under SCs and STs (POA) Act, you are entitled for relief and other facilities under the rules.

Please contact the concerned District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate or District Social Welfare Officer" for details and settlement of your claims.

Untouchables is legally abolished and its practice in any form is a cognizable offence under Protection of Civil Rights Act, punishable with imprisonment upto six months.

If any public servant willfully neglects his duties under SCs & STs (PAO) Act, he is liable for imprisonment for a term upto one year.

3. The suitable instruction are being given by the police authorities to the local police for speedy and careful disposal of cases registered under SCs and STs (POA) Act, 1989 and filling the charge-sheet within the shortest (prescribed) time limit.
4. In Sikkim there is not so much problem for maintaining Law and Order. The people of Sikkim are, by nature God fearing and Law abiding people. However, incase of occurrence of any problem in maintaining Law and Order in the State, the Government and the police authorities are always alert and adequate steps are taken for maintaining peace and communal harmony in rural and urban areas to check and minimize the crimes and atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
5. Necessary instructions have been given to the police booths set-up I rural and urban areas for taking timely and effective actions in investigating the cases and submitting the charge-sheet in the courts. The police personnel have been instructed to investigate the complaints soon after the FIR is lodged.
6. District and Session Courts (North and East) and District and Session Courts (South and West) have been designated as Special Courts to try the cases of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for North and East Districts and for West and South Districts respectively.
7. The State Government have appointed Special Public Prosecutors with adequate qualifications and experience to try the cases in right earnest and for disposal with necessary conviction. The Special Public Prosecutors are also maintaining strong and cordial relation with the local police machinery. The State Government is also organizing training courses for creating awareness about various provisions of the Special Acts among the Special Public Prosecutors and the concerned Police Officials.
8. Regular training and orientation of functionaries at all level are also being conducted in order to ensure that the agencies responsible for providing protection and safe-guarding the interests of SCs and STs do not themselves commit crimes against SCs and STs.
9. The action taken on complaints registered by SCs/STs against police in action on their complaints, viz. investigation, registration and filling of cases and their present status are being reviewed periodically by the State Government and reported to the Commission.
10. Necessary steps are being taken to review/amend the norms for payment of relief and rehabilitation, prescribed under Rule 12 of the SCs and STs (POA) Rules, 1995 for providing total relief amount to the victims by the time the case is charge-sheeted in the court.

DEVELOPMENT OF OBC

The Central Government has directed State Government to take steps for integration of OBC in the National mainstream for making them equal partners in the nation building progress. Accordingly to the programme laid down by the Central Government for the development of OBC the State Government has to tale up various programmes to improve their economic condition. The emphasis has been laid on educational and economic development by taking up schemes which would benefit there section of the population. The State Government has already identified a number of Castes which fall into this category.

- (1) Pre-matric Scholarship for OBCs under this scheme, Scholarship will be awarded in the case of students whose parents/guardian income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 44,500/- per annum.
- (2) Post-matric Scholarship to OBC students for studies in India. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the OBC students studying at post matriculation or post secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. Their scholarship shall be available through the State Government 100% Central Assistant will be provided to the State Government for this purpose. Their scholarship will be given for studies in recognized

institution. Unemployed students whose parents/guardian income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 44,500/- per annum will be entitled for scholarship under this scheme.

HOSTEL FOR OBC BOYS AND GIRLS

The scheme aims at providing better education opportunities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes notified as such in the Central and State list of OBCs, generally referred to as Other Backward Classes. It would, however, not cover students belonging to the creamy layer. Hostel under the scheme will be constructed in the state which have a large OBC population but inadequate hostel facilities. Under the scheme 50% Central Assistance will be given to states for construction. The hostel will be constructed for middle, secondary, college and university level students.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION SOCIAL WELFARE EPARTMENT

The Social Welfare Division under Social Welfare Department implements welfare programme for the Handicapped, Old Age persons, Orphan children and Destitute Persons and Delinquent juveniles. The objectives of Social Welfare programmes are the welfare and development of the under privileged and deprived section of Society.

(1) Old Age Pension

Old Age Pension is provided to the needy persons of 65 years at the rate of 200/- per month.

(2) Welfare of the disabled persons

The Persons with disabilities (Prevention) Act, 1995 has been enforced and is being implemented in Sikkim. There are four categories of physically challenged persons, viz. Locomotive, Visual, Mental and Hearing impaired. The following schemes are implemented for the welfare of the disabled persons:

(ii) Scholarships - Scholarship of Rs. 50/-, Rs. 60/-, Rs. 85/- per month respectively is being given to disabled children in different Government Schools in Sikkim.

(iii) Subsistence Allowance - Subsistence allowance of Rs. 200/- p.m. is given to disabled persons who are poor and needy. (iv) Equipments - Equipments like Hearing aids, Crutches, Walking sticks for blind etc. are distributed free of cost to the poor and needy disabled persons of the State.

(v) Free Camps for the Disabled - The Social Welfare Division organized three free camps for the disabled as per the details given below:

YEAR	In collaboration with	Category of	Place
1998-1999	National Institute for Orthopedically handicapped , Calcutta	Orthopedic disability	Gangtok
1999-2000	Ali Yavar National Institute for hearing	Hearing impaired	Gangtok

	Handicapped – Mumbai		
2000-2001	Ali Yavar National Institute for hearing Handicapped – Mumbai	All disabilities	Namchi

Further during 2000-2001, Memorandum of agreement was signed between the Director, Ali Yavar lung, National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai and the Secretary, Social Welfare Department for establishing a District Disability Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities at S. T. N. M. Hospital, Gangtok for the benefit of all the categories of disabilities. This centre started functioning from February' 2001.

(vi) Sheltered Workshop for the Disabled - The Department runs a Sheltered Workshop for disabled persons at Jorethang, and train them in cane & bamboo products and engaged them in production workshop at the rate of Rs. 1500/- per month.

(vii) Destitute Home - The Department runs one Destitute Home and gives financial assistance to 5 NGOs to run destitute home where accommodation, education and general welfare is provided. Maintenance grant has been enhanced from Rs. 270/- p.m. per child to Rs. 450/- p.m. per child for NGOs run home and Rs. 300/-p.m. per child to Rs. 500/- p.m. per child for Government run homes w.e.f. April'2000.

S.No.	Name of the Destitute Home	Location	Run By
1.	Kaluk Destitute Home	Kaluk	Government
2.	Atish Dipankar Destitute Home	Chakung	N.G.O.
3.	Balika Niketan	Gangtok	N.G.O.
4.	Wangdi Faith Mission Home	Mangan	N.G.O.
5.	Denzong Lhadhey Yanki Chokchen	Pelling	N.G.O.
6.	Kingstone Destitute Home	Renock	N.G.O.

Grant-in-aid is given to Voluntary Organizations like National Association for Blind, Namchi, Spastic Society in Gangtok and Special School, P. N . G, association for Social Health in India, Sikkim Branch Shishu Bhawan etc. to undertake welfare works for the under privileged section of the Society.

After the enforcement of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 in Sikkim, (Amended Act, 2000) the department has established one Juvenile Observation Home for the delinquent juveniles. But in the year 1999, the department acquired a building at Lower Sichey Busty and has established a permanent Juvenile Observation Home. It has a capacity to house 25 juveniles at a given time. Here the juveniles are cared for, given protection and rehabilitation.

**SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

SCHEMES RELATING TO WOMEN

1. BALIKA SAMRIDHI YOJANA

This scheme was launched by the Government of India in the year 1997 with a view to provide financial

assistance to the families living below poverty line to whom girl child is born and to give highest priority to ensure population stabilization with gender equity and sustained socio-economic development. Benefits under BSY will be restricted to two girl children in each house hold born on or after 15/8/1997 irrespective of the total number of children in the house hold.

OBJECTIVES :-

1. To change the family and community's negative attitudes towards the girl child at birth and towards her mother.
2. To improve enrolment and retention of girl children in schools.
3. To raise the age of marriage of girls.
4. To assist the girl to undertake income generating activities.

COMPONENT OF BSY

The girl children eligible under BSY will be entitled to the following benefits:

1. A post-birth grant amount of Rs. 500/-
2. When the-girl child born and covered under BSY starts attending the school, she will become entitled to annual scholarships as under for each successfully completed year of schooling:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Amount of Annual Scholarship</u>
I-III	Rs. 300/- per annum for each class.
IV	Rs. 500/- per annum.
V	Rs. 600/- per annum
VI-VIII	Rs. 700/- per annum for each class.
VIII	Rs. 800/- per annum.
IX-X	Rs. 1000/- per annum for each class

The above amounts are required to be deposited in an interest bearing account to be opened in the name of the beneficiary girl child and an officer designated in this behalf by the State Government in the Bank or Post Office, No premature withdrawal is permitted from the accounts which will mature on the girl child attaining the age of 18 years. On the girl child attaining 18 years of age and on production of a Certificate from the Gram Panchayat/District Collector that she is unmarried on her 18th birthday, the implementing agency will authorize the bank or the post officer authorities concerned to allow her to withdraw the matured amount standing in her name in the interest-bearing account.

In the event of the beneficiary getting married before attaining the age of eighteen, years she shall forgo the benefit of the amounts of the annual scholarships and the interest accrued thereon and shall stand entitled only to the post-birth grant amount of Rs. 500/- and the interest accrued thereon. The implementing agency shall, in such an event, be entitled to withdraw the value of the matured deposit of the scholarship amounts and the interest accrued thereon and utilize this fund to sanction the benefits prescribed under this Scheme to other eligible girl children.

In the eventuality of the death of the girl child before attaining the age of eighteen years, the accumulated amount in her account would be withdrawn by the implementing agency for payment to other eligible beneficiaries under BSY.

2. INDIRA MAHILA YOJANA

This scheme was launched in the year 1995 aiming to achieve the following objectives:

1. Convergence of schemes of every sectoral department.
2. Awareness generation among the women from Rural and Urban slums.
3. Economic Empowerment of women.

The brief highlights of the schemes are as follows :

- (a) Women will be encouraged to group themselves according to socio-economic status.
- (b) There will be representation from the local panchayat members and the officials at every level.
- (c) The structure created under IMY will be having role in formation of the level plan reflecting women's priorities.
- (d) NGOs will be involved in group formation and facilitation otherwise rest of the activities will be performed by the group itself.

The Government of India had sanctioned one Block for Sikkim and the State Government has implemented this scheme in South District where 110 Indira Mahila Kendras are functional. Each IMK was given Rs. 5000/- as one time grant to start income generating activities. Presently the above 110 IMKs are involved in income generating activities like pickle making, goatery, piggery, ginger cultivation, basket making, poultry, vegetable growing etc. for which an investment of Rs. 2.48 lakhs has been made by the above 110 SHGs and have deposited an amount of Rs. 3.44 lakhs in State Bank of Sikkim.

Recently the above IMY has been recast into an Integrated Women's Empowerment Programme (IWEP) Swayamsidha with the following objectives:

- (a) Establishment of Self-reliant women's Self Help Groups (SHG);
- (b) Creation of confidence and awareness among members of SHGs regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education, sanitation and hygiene, legal rights, economic upliftment and other social economic and political issues.
- (c) Strengthening and institutionalizing the saving habits in rural women and their control over economic resources.
- (d) Improving access of women to micro credit.
- (e) Involvement of women in local level planning and,
- (f) Convergence of services of DWDC and other departments.

Under IWEP-Swayamsidha two additional Blocks have been sanctioned for Sikkim by the Government of India State Action Plan & 2 block specific action plan for a period of six years in the meantime. a survey was :conducted in 30 villages with tentative target of 90 SHGs and saving has been started.

3. WIDOW REMARRIAGE SCHEME

Under this scheme the eligible person marrying a widow is granted a cash incentive of Rs. 10,000/-. The following documents are required to be submitted:

1. Sikkim Subject / Certificate of Identification of both husband and wife.
2. Marriage Certificate issued by the District Collector / Marriage Officer.
3. Clearance from in-laws.
4. Undertaking by the husband to take care / responsibility of the children of the wife from her first husband.
5. The eligible person can neither divorce nor annul the marriage on any ground whatsoever for a period of ten years from the date of registration of marriage in the appropriate court. Otherwise the Department can take any action to recover the amount of incentive.

4. PENSION OF WIDOW OF EX-SERVICE MEN:

An amount of Rs. 84,000/- is annually transferred to Rajya Sainik Board for disbursement to the widows of ex-servicemen.

5. WORKING WOMENS HOSTEL

For safe and economical accommodation to working women, two Working Women's Hostels are established at Gangtok and Namchi.

6. HELPLINE

For immediate relief of the women in distress and to rescue them at the earliest possible time, a Helpline has been established in the Police Control Room, Gangtok having telephone No. 22892/21566.

7. KISHORI SHAKTI YOJANA

Adolescence is a crucial phase in the life of a women. At this stage, she stand at the threshold of adulthood. This stage is intermediary between childhood and womanhood and is the most eventful for mental, emotional and psychological well-being. The life cycle approach for holistic child development remains unaddressed if adolescent girls are excluded from the developmental programmes aimed at human resource development.

As such Kishori Shakti Yoj ana - a scheme on Adolescent girls as part of the ongoing ICDS scheme has been launched with the following objectives:

- 1) To improve the nutritional and health status of girls in the age group of 11-18 years.
- 2) To provide the required literacy and necessary skills through the non-formal stream of education, to stimulate a desire for more social exposure and knowledge and to help them improve their decision making capabilities.
- 3) To train and equip the adolescent girls to improve/upgrade home based and vocational skills.
- 4) To promote awareness of health, hygiene, nutrition & family welfare, home management and child care and to take all measures as to facilitate their marrying only after attaining the age of 18 years and if possible even later.
- 5) To gain a better understanding of their environment related issues and the impact on their lives.
- 6) To encourage adolescent girls to initiate various production and useful activities for the society.

A basket of programmatic options are available for selective interviews for the development of the adolescent girls on the basis of specific needs and requirement. Some of the options are as follows :

- a) Regular supply of Iron and Folic Acid tablets and de worming tablets with provision for nutritional and health education.
- b) Emphasis on life education including knowledge of physical and psychological development process.
- c) Emphasis on education with particular attention on school drop-out and functional literacy among illiterate adolescent girls.
- d) Vocational training activities for their economic empowerment.
- e) Improvement of social status.

This scheme was launched in 2001 and during that period 36 adolescent girls of Lower Dzongu were benefited under the scheme.

8. SIKKIM STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The Sikkim State Commission for Women Act 200 I has already been passed. The Commission shall perform the following functions:

1. Make an in depth studies on :-
 - a) The economic, social, health situations of the women in the State.
 - b) Condition which women work in factories, establishment, construction sites etc
2. Compile information on instances of all offences against women.
3. Coordinate with the State Cell/ District Cells for atrocities against women.
4. Receive complaints on atrocities/Offences against women, rehabilitation of deserted and destitute women, atrocities on women in custody, women forced into prostitution etc.
5. Assist, train and orient NGOs in the State in legal counseling of poor women and enabling such women to get legal aid.
6. Inspect or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home, various institution etc.
7. Perform functions in relation to any other matter which may be referred to it by the State Government.

The Commission shall also have the powers of the Civil Court trying a suit in respect of the following matters :-

- a. Summoning and enforcing attendance of any person from any part of India and examining them on oath.
- b. Requiring the discovery and production of any document.
- c. Receiving evidence on affidavits
- d. Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.
- e. Issuing commission for the examination of witnesses and documents
- f. Nay other matter as required may be prescribed

II. SCHEMES RELATING TO CHILDREN

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (SCHEME)

I.C.D.S.

The most prominent scheme, which relates to children and is implemented by the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Under this scheme the following package of services are provided to the beneficiaries:

- (a) Supplementary feeding
- (b) Immunization
- (c) Health Check-up
- (d) Referral Services
- (e) Nutrition & Health Education
- (f) Pre-school Education

NUTRITION

The Nutrition Cell of the Division deals with the following matters:

1. Integrated Nutrition Education Camp:- A week's duration camp is held for the grass root level workers every year at different places of the State, This camp comprises of 75 (Seventy Five) participants from various fields of work. Classes on nutrition, Health and other allied subjects are conducted by experts from respective fields. Spot demonstration on the preparation of low-cost recipes is also conducted.
2. Orientation Training Camp (O.T.C.) :- This is also a week's camp for the supervisory level workers with 35 (Thirty Five) participants. Classes are conducted on Health, Nutrition and various allied subjects. Experts from different departments are invited as guest lectures. Field visits, film shots on Nutrition and spot demonstration are the other attraction of this camp.
3. World Breast feeding Week :- The first Week of August i.e. from 1st to 7th August is celebrated as World Breast Feeding Week every year. Banners with themes are displayed and much emphasis is laid on Urban Areas. Programme are held at different places, one from each district. Quiz competition among local mothers, baby show competition, feeding programme and spot demonstration on low-cost recipes are conducted. Supervisors, Gramasevikas, ICDS children and the local community are the active participants of this week.
4. National Nutrition Week :- This week is celebrated from the 1st of September to the 7th of September every year at different places of the State. Various programmes like quiz competitions, debates, slogan competitions, recipe competitions, feeding programmes, skits etc are conducted. Banners are displayed and maximum public participation is encouraged.
5. Nutrition Awareness Camp:- The awareness camps are organized at different places as follow-up programmes with regular nutrition programme Schedule.
6. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) :- Under PMGY, supplementary nutrition is provided to the beneficiaries of ICDS as well as non-ICDS children in the following procedure:

Biscuits	-	100gms/day/beneficiaries	3-6 years
Weaning Food-		100 gms/day/benf./for a month	0-3 years

CRECHES FOR WORKING WOMEN'S CHILDREN

There are 115 creche's throughout the State, which are run by NGOs under the supervision and guidance of the Sikkim State Social Welfare Advisory Board. Besides, eight Anganwadi Centres to cover the children of laborers as under are also functional :

- a) East - Rey and Mangthang
- h) West- Naya Busty and Daramdin
- c) North - Ringhema and Singhik
- d) South - Temi and Ravangla

SIKKIM STATE PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN FOR 2000-2004

The State Government has prepared, Sikkim State Plan of Action for Children for 2000-2004" which was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 14th June'2001. This plan of Action takes care of the children in the following areas :

1. Rights for Survival - deals with health, reproductive and child health maternity, nutrition, child environment sanitation, hygiene and water supply.
2. Rights for development.
3. Rights for protection for the children specially in difficult circumstances.
4. Children's rights for participation.

