

PROGRESS TO DATE AT A GLANCE

MINISTER, WOMEN DEVELOPMENT SINDH

After taking charge the Minister, Women Development Sindh started inter active dialogue with all levels of society to assess the need and present status of women development at grass root level. The development gaps were identified and projects were initiated and revised to fill the gaps. The Minister continued inter action and liaison with district governments to monitor and review development activities at district level and to enable the department to coordinate and implement various activities, programmes and projects in line with policies and directives issued by the federal government from time to time and in accordance with national and international commitments.

The Minister also conducted Khuly Kacheries all over Sindh including Hyderabad, Karachi, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Benazirabad, Larkana, Shehdadkot (Qumbar), Shikarpur and Khairpur.

STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN STUDY CENTRES

The Minister, Women Development Sindh realizing importance of research and development for women studies, granted financial aid of Rs.5.00 lacs each to the Women Studies Centre, University Karachi and Sindh University Jamshoro. The aid was awarded from the project Gender Reforms Action Plan Sindh.

LIAISON WITH NGOs AND LINE DEPARTMENTS

The Minister, Women Development Sindh continued interaction with the members of civil society and development agencies in districts of Sindh. The Minister visited various dehs and talukas of district Thatta for reviewing development process in the district by a prominent NGO named Alestan Latif Social Welfare Organization, village Ranta and Daro. During her visit of Thatta district she also held meetings with EDO, Finance, EDO, CDD and DO Social Welfare for reviewing the progress of implementation of GRAP.

CELEBRATION OF 115TH BIRTH DAY OF MOHTARMA FATIMA JINNAH

The 115th birth day of Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah was celebrated at the Directorate of Women Development on 31st July, 2008. The Minister, Women Development Sindh inaugurated the celebration by cutting the birth day cake and reiterated the commitment of women empowerment the dream of Mohtarma Fatimas Jinnah and father of the National Qauid-e-Azam Muhamamd Ali Jinnah. The Minister, Women Development Sindh asked the members of the civil society to join their hands on common plate form for elimination of gender discrimination and women empowering.

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF IN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENT, DIRECTORATE AND ITS PROEJCTS.

On the directives of the honourable Chief Minister Sindh the process of appointments on the vacant posts in the department has been initiated. The advertisement has been published in the news papers for inviting applications from candidates. Last date of submission of applications was 31st July, 2008. The applications received are being sorted out and interviews and appointment will be started shortly after fulfillment of formalities, rules and regulations.

SOCIO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

The Minister, Women Development Sindh announced “Womenza” a mega event of culture learning and socio economic development for women in collaboration with Knack (Pvt) Ltd. The main features of the event are :-

- The exhibition from 29th to 31st July, 2008 at EXPO Centre, Karachi.
- Conference and seminar.
- Womenza Road Show.

The event includes training seminar and conference, Marvel Women Blog, Women Excellence Award, Visionaries Avenue, Health Corner, Nutrition & Nourishment, Beauty & Fitness Junction, Home Tips, Gardening Guidance, Krazzy Kidz Mania, Food Street.

SUBMISSION OF SUMMARIES

Summary to C.M Sindh for lifting of ban of appointment in the Women Development Department and its approval by the worthy Chief Minister Sindh.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES UNDER TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

There has been a consistent effort of the department to improve the service delivery. The on-going projects were revised to be in line with the present requirement and to provide efficient service. New projects were initiated in diversified fields to cater the need of the women with the basic objective of economic, social, cultural and legal, political empowerment of women. The quantum of the annual development plan has increased from Rs.80.00 million to Rs.172.950 million for the financial year 2008-09 to accelerate the pace of development and fill the development gap, the following projects are under taken by the department :-

BENAZIR BHUTTO SHAHEED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Government of Sindh has launched a Youth Development programme titled Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Youth Development Programme. The program envisaged to provide human resource development in the province. The programme will provide skill development and capacity building of the low and middle level educated youth in the Province. The training will be imparted in the field of :-

TRAINING	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES
a) Women Entrepreneurship	600
b) Beautician	300
c) Secretarial Skill	300

Around 1200 youth will be benefited from the programme on completion of the project at a project cost of Rs.66.344 million.

Currently the training in the field of Secretarial Skill and Beautician is being imparted covering all over Sindh in Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Benazirabad, Naushero Feroze, Khairpur, Sukkur, Ghotki and Larkana. The training has been started in the field of Women Entrepreneurship at Karachi, Hyderabad whereas the training at Benazirabad, Sukkur and Larkana will be commencing soon covering all the districts in Sindh.

Monthly stipend is given to trainees i.e. Beautician Rs.4,000/=, Secretarial and Entrepreneurship Rs.5,000/=.

ENDOWMENT FUND TO THE RURAL WOMEN OF SINDH

The project envisaged to provide micro financing to the rural women of Sindh. The basic objective of the project is socio economic development as well as cottage industry and local trade boost in the area. The fund are provided through Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO). The project will helpful in poverty alleviations and generating self employment.

WOMEN AND JUVENILE PRISONERS COMMITTEE

The Government of Sindh has established a revolving fund to provide financial aid to the female /juvenile prisoners. The fund is utilized for women prisoners in payment of Fine Amount, Deeyat Amount, bail surety amount, legal aid, repatriation and transport arrangements. So far 18 meetings of the committee have been convened and following prisoners have been benefited on payment of required amount out of fund :-

- i) Paid find amount of 41 female and 01 juvenile prisoners.
- ii) Paid air tickets of 22 foreigner female prisoners.
- iii) Paid bill surety amount of 43 female prisoners.
- iv) Paid bail surety amount of 108 juvenile prisoners.

SALES & DISPLAY RESOURCE CENTRE AT KARACHI

Rural women engaged in traditional cottage industries have difficulties in marketing and selling their products. Due to their poor sales and marketing skills, they are usually compelled to dispose off their articles at cheaper rates to the middlemen. The basic objective of the project is

to eliminate middlemen who caters most of the profit and thereby providing direct access to the market by the producing women. The handicraft producing women were benefited by selling their products at sales and exhibitions facilitated at Expo Centre Karachi, Pearl Continental Hotel Karachi, Hamara Karachi Festival and Cultural Mela at Hyderabad.

DAY CARE CENTRE

Most working women face the problem of baby child care during their working hours. This project provides care for infants of working women thereby facilitating them to continue their employment with peace of mind. The Day Care Centre is situated in the heart of Karachi easily accessible from all parts of the city. The centre is providing services on cost to cost basis for children from the ages of 2 months to 3 years. The center is well equipped to keep 30 children with modern and hygienic facilities under supervision of trained staff.

WOMEN COMPLAINT CELLS

Growing violence against women is a major area of concern for the women development agencies. In most of the cases victims are deprived of their legal rights and protections available in the law due to ignorance of legal procedures and apprehensions. This project aims to provide legal and medical aid plus counseling to women victims of violence. Initially six complaint cells are in the process of establishment and operation at Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Benazirabad for the appropriate and timely disposal of complaints and speedy access to justice by victims.

BABY CHILD TRAINING IN DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF SINDH AND 18 TOWNS IN KARACHI – 3 MONTHS CERTIFICATE COURSE.

The Baby Child Care Centres are a growing business in large cities but there are very few institutions to provide training to women on child care. The center is providing a career building opportunity to women by imparting required training in a professional manner. Highly qualified personnel have been hired and training is imparted through specially designed module for this purpose. Training is provided in batches of 15 candidates along with free meals during training and stipend of Rs.3,000/= per month, as well. The progress to date is as follows :-

Training completed (Districts)

Jamshoro, Hyderabad

Benazirabad, Faisal Town

Karachi:

Lyari Town, Keamari Town,

Shah Faisal Town

Training in process (2 sessions at each centre)

Badin, Khairpur

Karachi:

Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town

MEDIA CELL

The project was commissioned for efficient and effective use of print and electronic media bringing to lime light women issues, bridging the communication gap between various sectors of society and government and initiating interactive dialogue regarding women issues and their resolution through coordinated efforts. This cell facilitates media to play its role in women empowerment. The electronic and other media has been used effectively to high light the women issues and to raise awareness regarding women issues in the civil society.

REPORT ON WOMEN TRAFFICKING IN SINDH

The project aims at to prepare a detailed and comprehensive report on the women trafficking in Sindh enabling the concerned quarters to have a clear view of this crime and to take appropriate measures for eradicating it. The documentation for preparation of the report i.e. design of questionnaire and sample has been completed and the survey at Karachi and Hyderabad has been taken up.

GENDER REFORMS ACTION PLAN (GRAP)

The objective of Gender Reforms Action Plan is to institutionalize gender mainstreaming in various departments of government of Sindh as well as district level. The project encompasses the gender mainstreaming in the projects, policies and programmes of public sector. The project will also provide capacity building of various departments enabling them to incorporate gender reforms through policy formulation. Most of the posts below BPS-15 have been filled in on merit.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN AT BENAIZIRABAD

The project covering 8 acers of land to provide vocational training to the women in the Province. The project is under construction by C&W Department and efforts are being made to complete it upto June, 2009. The training in the following trades will be provided :-

- Computer
- Beautician
- Cooking
- Interior Decoration
- Cutting, Starching & Painting of Glass
- Arabic & English Language Courses

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL AT KARACHI

In large number of cases women desirous to work do not get job near their home and they are compelled to give up the employment opportunity for want of dwelling place near their location of job. The project will provide boarding and lodging facility in the economic hub of Pakistan i.e. Karachi. The hostel will provide accommodation to around 25-30 working women. The working women hostel will be managed by the board of directors headed by Director, Women Development and nominees from Planning & Development, Social Welfare, Finance and SGA&C Departments. Due to non-availability of government land the project will be accommodated in rented premises.

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING WOMEN HOSTELS IN ALL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF SINDH.

Our social and cultural ties do not allow a women to stay away alone, at locations away from their home where they cannot reach daily after closure of their work. The project envisaged to provide safe and sound accommodation to the working women in the various districts of Sindh. The project will provide boarding and lodging facilities at subsidized rates. The hostels will be established in Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Mirpurkhas.

The scheme has been approved by PDWP and is in the process of commissioning.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SHELTER HOMES AT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS IN SINDH.

In many cases women victim of violence, either continue to face violence or quit the home. The Women Development Department under the project Establishment of Women Complaint Cells provide legal and medical aid and counseling to the women suffered from violence. The project aims at providing a dwelling place to the women victim of violence till such time the domestic dispute is resolved or the women arranges other safe and sound alternative for her residence. The shelter home will provide to the women items of necessary daily requirement such as meal, detergent soap, medical aid etc. It will be managed by a body comprising of District Govt. personnels, and NGOs (dealing with domestic violence). The shelter homes will be protected by the local law enforcement agencies. The women will be admitted to the home on recommendation of Women Complaint Cell, DCO/CDD office and district government hospitals and basic health units.

The scheme has been approved by PDWP and is in the process of commissioning.

ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL IN SINDH

It was felt that civic facilities solely for the women in the province are not adequate. The project will provide civic facilities to women in divisional headquarters of Sindh i.e. Larkana, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Karachi and Sukkur. The centre will be called Women Development Complex consistent of health and fitness facilities (gymnasium) medical care (poly clinic), skill training, auditorium, community centre and library. The project will provide all the mentioned facilities to the women under one roof.

The PC-1 of the project is in the process of development and technical/financial details are being compiled to place the project before PDWP.

SINDH WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT RPROGRAMME (SWEEP)

The project aims to enhance economic empowerment of women by creating income generating opportunities in various traditional handicrafts by providing training, marketing out lets, marketing facilities. Besides, women will also be motivated and trained new and modern fields of micro entrepreneur activities. The project proposal is approved by the Technical Committee, provincial concept clearance committee and forwarded to the Federal Government (CDWP) for foreign assistance. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Government of Canada to provide support in poverty alleviation and capacity building of women engaged in handicrafts and cottage industry. The project will be implemented through the collaboration with reputable NGOs engaged in the socio economic empowerment of women.

The project aims at enhancing socio economic status of the women in the Province by providing income generation skills to the women of the province.

ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN SINDH

One of the basic objects of the women development is to provide advocacy for women empowerment in Sindh. It is considered that one of the main cause of backwardness of women is lack of awareness of their basic rights, ways and means to access the resources for which they are entitled. The project aims at initiating advocacy campaign to be launched in the fields of legal empowerment, political empowerment, women & health and economic empowerment.

The campaign will be launched through development of special modules and workshops/seminars in the districts of Sindh and media campaign on issues requiring inter active dialogues between all sectors of society vertically and horizontally. Use of effective media is essence of project.

The project has been prepared and approved by the PDWP and is in the process of commissioning.

WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The department is maintaining a comprehensive and updated website providing useful data and information to the user. The current activities and other related information is continuously published to improve interaction by the women of the province in the development activities.

BENAZIR WOMEN CENTRE

It is a federal government project being managed by the Department. The project provides relief, rehabilitation and support to the women in crisis and distress as a step forward to combat violence against women.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The department also conducted awareness raising and consultative programmes, seminar and workshops on women issues through out the province. The programmes were conducted at Karachi, Larkana, Benazirabad, Sukkur, Khairpur, Hyderabad.