



INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
KRISHI BHAWAN: NEW DELHI.

F. No. GAC-21-41/2017-CDN

Dated the 12th October, 2017

ENDORSEMENT

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Directorate of Extension, Krishi Vistar Bhavan, Govt. of India has issued a circular regarding Report of the Expert Committee on the Economic, Political and Social Status of Women in North Eastern States by National Commission for Women. The O.M. No. 1-4/2013-NGRCA-Part-I dated 15.09.2017 has been uploaded on the e-office for information and compliance.


12/10/17
(Ajai Verma)

Under Secretary (GAC)

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F.No.1(4)/2013-NGRCA Part-1

F.No.1(4)/2013-NGRCA Part-I

Government of India

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare)

Directorate of Extension

Krishi Vistar Bhawan

Pusa, New Delhi-110 012

Office of Secy (DARE) & D...
Office No. 184692/IR
Date 18/9/2017

Dated the 15th September, 2017

Subject : Report of the Expert Committee on Economic, Political and Social Status of Women in North Eastern States – National Commission for Women – regarding

Please find enclosed herewith a D.O. No. F.4/2017-18/NEC/NCW dated 19th July, 2017 received from National Commission for Women along with relevant extracts of the recommendations emanating from the above-cited report/study.

2. I am directed to request concerned Division/Department/Units of Directorate of Extension to take further needful action, in terms of incorporating the said recommendations wherever possible in their respective Schemes Guidelines for betterment of women farmers. They may also direct the States/Implementing Agencies under their control to include the said recommendations in their State Action Plan of respective Schemes pertaining to North Eastern States.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Neeraj Suneja
(Neeraj Suneja)

Director Administration & Head

National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture

Ph : 25841924, 25846613

Encl As above

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Smt M 14/9/17



कुन्दन लाल शर्मा

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सत्यमेव जयते

संयुक्त सचिव
राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग
भारत सरकार
JOINT SECRETARY

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

19th July, 2017

D.O.No.F.4/2017-18/NEC/NCW

Dear Shri Borthakur,

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the National Commission for Women had, with a view to focus on women's issues in the North Eastern States, undertaken a study regarding Social, Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in those states. The objectives of the study were to ascertain the social, economic and political status of women in these States and also evaluate the impact of different schemes/programmes in so far as women are concerned as also recommend policy level changes considered necessary for betterment of the status of women in those States. I am enclosing a copy of the Report for your perusal and necessary action.

2. The report provides grass-root level inputs and actionable recommendations. A number of recommendations on pg-173-180 of the report concern your Ministry/Department. It is requested that further action in pursuance of the recommendations may be taken and, where necessary, other Departments may also be consulted.

3. I shall be grateful if the Commission could be kept informed of the action taken in the matter.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(K.L.Sharma)

Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur,
Joint Secretary

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

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Report of the Expert Committee on Economic, Political and Social Status of Women in North East

August 2016

A Baseline Survey



National Commission for Women

Government schemes / scholarships / subsidies, given that there is no connectivity in rural areas including mobile phones because of the terrain and climate; women and girls should be given the option to apply by post or at the nearest government office or any other means that they find convenient.

- (f) Rights based approach--Engage and network with various stakeholders including women organisations, community based organisation for a rights based approach to development.

3. Education

Education is the most important lever for social, economic and political transformation. A well-educated population, equipped with the relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills is essential for economic and social development in the twenty first century. Education is the most potent tool for socio-economic mobility and a key instrument for building an equitable and just society. [12th Five Year Plan document para 21.1]. Education has the potential to alternative socialization, challenging conventional gender ideologies, leveling the playing fields between male and females [Sen, 1999]

Policy and Programmes for universal inclusion of girls in education at various levels--Keeping the above 12th Plan guiding principle on socio-economic mobility in mind, the following actionable points may be factored into the policy and programmes for education of girls with a view to their social empowerment:

- Recognise that education of girls increases the confidence and capability of women to be decisive for their own well-being, as well as that of their families and communities.
- Build collective / community leadership capacities in girls to enable them to participate in public processes.
- Bridge gender gaps in literacy rates by implementing targeted and area specific programmes to enhance women's access to education, where required.
- 100% enrolment of girl child--Evolve specific mechanisms for 100% enrolment of girl child of 6-14 years in the school; by possibly focussing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan efforts on the girl child and being attentive to the challenges of reaching remote areas of the State.
- Review criterion for BPL households and develop a fresh criterion to assess needy households, and formulate special assistance schemes for them so that girl-child of BPL is included in the educational system. This should be an all-inclusive scheme covering admission, books, stationery, skilling, vocational education, etc.
- Implementation and rigorous monitoring---of policies and programmes for education such as (i) General schemes--Right to Education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (National Higher Education Mission) RUSA, (ii) women specific schemes like SABLA [Scheme for out-of-school girls aged 11 to 18] etc given that field reports from remote and hill areas of North East, indicate their poor performance. Effective implementation of the general schemes would also benefit girls, as in any situation of deprivation, it is the already deprived [girls in this case] who are more disadvantaged.
- Launch Drive--(i) to appoint teachers to fill up vacancies preferably with local candidates, taking care that female teachers are posted in girls schools where this could be an issue (ii) provide infrastructural facilities, such as, class rooms, teaching material, toilet facilities, accommodation for teachers, etc
- Girl student counsellors--Ensure that there are adequate vocational guidance counsellors for girl students to help them select their further education / career.
- Sports and self defense training--Encourage participation of women in sports and self defence training--this should be seen as a major means of women empowerment.
- Enquire into reasons for high drop-out rate of girls--Enquire more deeply through evaluation studies, at the local level, to find out the reasons for school drop-out by girls and recommend ways of increasing attendance in schools and generate innovative methods to address this issue.
- Advocacy against early marriage where it exists, that forces girls to drop out of school.
- Importance of education--Disseminate information to parents about the importance of education in a woman's life; so that girls are freed from domestic responsibility and attend schools.

- Information dissemination about scholarship, etc.-Address the issue of drop-out because of financial constraints by disseminating information on existing scholarships / sponsorships and providing access to them; helped by women's groups along with concerned departments.
- Introduce scholarships in schools through the District Institutes of Educational Training (DIET); and reduce delays in receiving scholarships by students, which discourages children from pursuing higher education.
- Free bicycles etc-Provide special grants and allowances (book grants, dress allowances, scholarship and free bicycles.) for not just ST, SC and OBC girls, but all girls.
- Special financial incentive for higher / technical education-Introduce special monthly financial incentive for girls to attain Higher and Technical Education and acquire professional skills.
- Adequate 'girls only' hostels to be built in schools, colleges, IIT's and polytechnics.
- Free Sanitary napkins, Mid-day meals, etc - provide mid-day meal at all levels for girl school students (critical for nutrition for girls); good quality free sanitary napkins with proper disposal mechanisms in the school.
- Reservation of seats in technical courses for girls-- Urgently, make higher and technical education more accessible to girls; and encourage them to enroll through reservation in college seats and in technical and other jobs.
- Information to girl students about ITI/ polytechnics-Pay particular emphasis on the role of teachers to give information about ITI and Polytechnics rather than just concentrate on giving information about engineering and medical courses; and provide teachers with the necessary information for this.
- Remedial classes (for tribal girls in remote parts to prepare them for school) and gifted children education programmes (who drop out because regular classes are not challenging enough). Remedial classes, which were discontinued in the 12th Plan should be reviewed with a view to reintroduction in the 13th Plan.
- Ensure employment opportunities through

measures such as reservation for girls in all government jobs and private sector to encourage girls to go for higher / technical education.

- Help-line-Introduce a help-line number in schools for girls to report against instances of violence. In view of inadequate telephone connectivity in remote areas, this number should preferably be that of the school headmistress or nearest senior most lady police officer of the area or Panchayat head.
- Gender Clubs-should be set up in schools which should include both girls and boys for debating gender issues and ways of combating them. [NCW-Report of Expert Committee on Gender and Education].

Strengthening Women education policy research:

- Research and evaluation studies as a basis for policy advice-strengthening thereof--research studies through Universities, colleges and Institutions/ Centres for women studies of repute, Centres for policy research, etc should be strengthened by providing adequate funding support.
- Revive Women Studies Centres in Universities and colleges-Introduce course content for degree courses on Women's Development such that it is totally linked to employability in the NGO sector, international organisations, CSR wings of corporate houses. As a first step towards this, the course content should be tailored in consultation with prospective employers. This would facilitate Campus recruitment at the Centres for gender studies.
- Review of curriculum at all levels-To overcome pre-conceived notions of women stereotyping, Govt should undertake review of curriculum at all levels, primary and secondary school, and at college level, to ensure that it reflects gender equality. The change in the content of curriculum should be such that it develops and nurtures a mind-set, which values and respects girls and women as equals, as contributors to nation building, as income earners, as sport-persons etc.

4. Equitable legal rights-leading to a more equal social status