

No.F.12-31/88-WW  
Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of Women & Child Development

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Dated: 20th May, 1988.

To.

Ms. Nandita Haksar,  
56, Munirka Enclave,  
New Delhi-67.

Madam,

In the meeting of the National Committee on Women which was held on 17 May 1988 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, it was decided to form four Sub-Groups for taking a closer look at the draft National Perspective Plan for Women 1988-2000A.D. The Sub-groups are expected to make their recommendations regarding the Perspective Plan on the subjects allotted to them. It has been decided to convene the meeting of the four Sub-Groups on 8 June 1988 at the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Siri Institutional Area, Opp. Police Station, Hauz Khas, New Delhi. The Sub-Groups will meet at 10.00 A.M. and continue their deliberations throughout the day. If necessary, Members may have to stay on for the next day for which arrangements and facilities for stay will be provided. One Coordinator from the staff of the Women's Division of NIPCCD will be attached to each Sub-group.


Some of the Members of the National Committee on Women had indicated their preferences regarding sub-groups they would like to work in. However, many Members had not expressed any preference. Since the work of the Sub-Groups is to be completed within two-three weeks, as decided in the Meeting of the National Committee, it is

not possible to obtain options from each Member regarding the Sub-Group of their choice. Keeping the background and the interest of the Members in view, an allocation has been made as per schedule attached. If Members wish to work in a Sub-group other than what has been shown against their names, changes can be made on the day of the meeting i.e. 8 June 1988, keeping in view the need to have balanced representation in all Groups. If any Member of a Sub-Group would also like to express views on matters relating to any other Sub-group, she may send her views in writing to that Sub-group.

A copy of the draft Perspective Plan is already available with you. If you wish to obtain more copies before the meeting on 8 June 1988, you may do so by writing or contacting the Women's Division, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (Contact Person - Dr. Nandini Azad, Phone No.653383(Off.), No.6462719(Res.)).

Kindly advise the undersigned or the Women's Division, NIPCCD, regarding your travel arrangements. TA/DA will be provided by the Government. Lunch on 8 June 1988 will also be provided at NIPCCD, as well as Tea/Coffee. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

  
(C.P. Sujaya)  
Joint Secretary  
Tel 381654

SUB GROUP 1 POLICY (INCLUDING LAW)

- i) Ms. Najma Heptullah, M.P.
- ii) Ms. Jayanti Natarajan, M.P.
- iii) Ms. Nandita Haskar
- iv) Ms. Aruna Asaf Ali
- v) Ms. Jaya Arunachalam

SUB GROUP II ECONOMIC ISSUES

- i) Ms. Swarup Bakshi,  
Welfare Minister,  
Lucknow.
- ii) Ms. Lalhlimpuii  
Minister for Social Welfare,  
Aizwal.
- iii) Ms. Ela R. Bhatt M.P.
- iv) Ms. Chandresh Kumari, M.P.
- v) Ms. Geeta Mukerjee, M.P.
- vi) Ms. Aloka Mitra

SUB GROUP III HEALTH, EDUCATION & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- i) Ms. Sheila Kaul, M.P.
- ii) Ms. Nirmala Shaktwat, M.P.
- iii) Ms. Amarjit Kaur M.P.
- iv) Dr. Archana Sharma
- v) Ms. Sarojini Varadappan
- vi) Prof. Philomena Reddy

SUB GROUP IV CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

- i) Ms. Sasmeeta Srivastava
- ii) Ms. Sheila Barse
- iii) Ms. Aparna Sen
- iv) Ms. Mrinal Pande
- v) Ms. C. Sivasankari
- vi) Ms. Nirmala Deshpande

For Circulation To Members of National Committee  
On Women: Comments on National Perspective Plan  
For Women 1988-2000 A.D. (NPPW)

General Comments

1. In addition to the 9 sectoral papers, we ought to have sectoral papers on the following topics:

- A. Value Dimension of Development \*
- B. Science & Technology
- C. Community Participation
- D. Specific Plan For Correction of Discriminatory Cultural Practices and Superstitions
- E. Strategies For Conscientising Males

- (\* The NPPW seems to suggest that the solution to almost all women's developmental problems lies in women's economic development.

The NPPW also does not probe the negative effects of development plans on women. Hence the need for this sectoral paper).

2. The recommendations are written as if they were points for discussion. Apart from the fact that the language does not indicate that they are recommendations, the content is imprecise and does not always indicate the plan of action.
3. The following recommendations may be incorporated in the present list. Some of the recommendations given below simply bring over from the body of the draft action areas already identified but missed out in the final compilation of recommendations. The others are my suggestions.

Rural Development

- i. A task force should probe the relationship between stagnation of rural economy and the current poverty alleviation programmes.
- ii. Every developmental project which requires displacement of substantial number of families should also be studied from the perspective of the displaced families and their development
- iii. The credit acquiring processes should be simplified and redesigned to help and protect the borrowers
- iv. The Collector should be freed of his responsibilities in the major time consuming areas, viz:  
law and order, and health



### Employment

- i. There should be a special component in the tax proposals to help spread responsibility of setting up and supporting creches to all employers instead of individual employers.
- ii. Specific steps should be taken to eradicate girl child labour within a certain time frame.
- iii. Targets should be set up for greater participation of women in police work.
- iv. A system of part-time permanent employment should be designed and given legal sanctity.
- v. Employment of persons to clean toilets in private homes should be immediately prohibited.

### Supportive Services

- i. Certain percentage of small flats should be reserved for single women in Housing Board Constructions.
- ii. A number of institutions for neglected, runaway or delinquent girls should be set up
- iii. A great deal of rethinking must be done on Protective Homes for rehabilitation ~~of~~ of girls in flesh trade

### Education

- i. Literacy be made imperative component of ICDS
- ii. Special methodology should be devised to reach out to Muslim women.
- iii. Promote distant education

### Health

- i. Special programmes on women's health to be devised for men folk and directed at the men folk.
- ii. Export of village resources of nutrition to urban markets should be prevented.
- iii. Health portfolio should be taken away from the Collector. Instead district directorates of health should be established and given professional autonomy and responsibility.
- iv. More community health centres as suggested by Bhore Commission should be set up.

### Media

- i. The brief on media and the recommendations itx contained in the original sectoral paper, seemed to have got misplaced. Please incorporate all that is set down in the original sector paper, especially the recommendation that a balance must be struck between the nation-building and revenue-earning potential of TV abd radio.
- ii. Media's right to access ro information should be established.

### Science & Technology

- i. Backyard tecnology for purification of water should be development
- ii. Old tools should be redesigned and new tools and inventions should be specially designed for use by women. For example, we bȳcycles for women, why should not we have ploughs or potter's wheels that women can use ?

### Law

- i. Greater number of legal aid centres for giving quality legal service be developed.
- ii. Recommendations of the National Police Commission to improve quality of policing and police attitudes bȳ implemented.
- iii. Mediapersons should be given access to information through a law. Right to Information Act may be enacted.
- iv. Juvenile Justice Act be re-drafted to make it conform to the Constitution and currentȳ laws. My original proposals are still pending hufurn with the Welfare Ministry.

### Sports

There should be schemes fer to encourage participation of women in sports. Sporting activity which does not require investment in equipment should be encouraged.

### Funding of Volags

- i. The government should fund policies not projects.
- ii. Tax policies should encourage donations. to NGO.



- i. Reservation of jobs for women in rural areas. (Rec 2.1)  
This is likely to
  - a. lead to exploitation of women by relatives
  - b. aggravate migration of rural men from rural areas.
- ii. Reservations on panchayats would succeed as strategy for genuine participation in panchayat work by women if it is 50 per cent. Otherwise Reservation of 30 % as recommended in NPPW (Rec 10.5 on page 79) would invite harassment of daring women and appointment of non-performing types.
- iii. Creches should not be set up near schools (Rec 6.6 page 72) Child-care should not be child's responsibility. Besides such a scheme will confirm the existing role ideals.
- iv. Women's dying declaration should NOT be given absolute validity as recommended (Rec 9.7 page 77) The present laws of evidence on the subject should continue.
- v. The citizen's freedom to will away his/her property to whomsoever s/he wishes should be respected. Wills disinheriting daughters should not be invalid (Rec 9.10 page 77)
- vi. Banking and other rules requiring declaration should require disclosure of names of parents and spouses, not just the father's and husband's names as in the present system. This is a technical requirement for identifying a person and protecting her/his interests (Ref. Rec 9.13 page 77)
- vii. I am opposed to the current system of monthly maintenance payments (Ref Rec 9.15 and 9.16 page 78)
- viii. The monthly maintenance should NOT be paid through courts as recommended (Rec 9.14 page 78) The courts are not in every town or village. This would therefore cause harassment to wives. divorces.

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5. I discussed the NPPW with a few persons. Some of them offered suggestions which I give below along with their names.
  - i. The first priority should be keeping peace in the community. - Ms Nasreen Siddiqui, Research Officer, Maharashtra Institute of Developmental Admin (MIDA), Pune.
  - ii. Develop strategies to minimise alcoholism among men - Ms Donna Suri, Editor Development News, Tribune, Chandigarh
  - iii. Formulate laws to deal with the informal polygamy among hindus. Simply processes for getting maintenance. - Dr S.P. Sathe, National Fellow, UGC ('Varsity of Pune)
  - iv. Involve industrial houses in setting up co-operatives for women - Anil Chaturvedi, Management Consultant, Pune
  - v. Reduce dependence of NGO on foreign funding agencies. - YUVA, a Bombay-based NGO.
  - vi. Consider physiotherapy as one of the professional development fields for women. - Prof D.H.D. Astoor, KEM Hospital, Bombay

Dr Dastoor's Note is attached (Annexure 1)

7. Three Pune-based women's organizations whose work also takes them to rural Maharashtra, have sent a Note in response to the NPPW. I fully endorse their opinion/comment/recommendations which are attached. (Annexure 2)