(TO BE PUBLISHED IN PART I SECTION I OF THE GAZETTE OF INDIA)

No.F.3-3/87-WN
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Women & Child Development

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

Dated: 11 February,1988.

R E S O L U T I O N

In order to advise the Government on the measures to be taken to accelerate the involvement of women in the development process and to ensure them the status envisaged in the Constitution of India through appropriate policy interventions and action programmes, the Government of India have resolved to appoint a National Committee on Women.

2. The composition of the National Committee on Women will be as under:-

i)	Prime Minister	Chairman
ii)	Minister of Human Resource Development	Vice-Chairman
iii)	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India	Member
iv)	Minister of State in the Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of India	Member
v)	Ms. Swarup Bakshi Harijan & Social Welfare Minister, Uttar Pradesh Sectt. Lucknow-226 001	Member.

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eight members at congress.

vi) Ms. Lalhlimpuii,
Minister of State for Social
Welfare & Employment
Government of Mizoram
Aizwal. Member

vii) Smt. Sumati Oraon
M.P. Lok Sabha,
3, Dr. Harish Chandra
Mathur Lane, New Delhi. Member.

viii) Smt. Geeta Mukherjee
M.P. Lok Sabha,
519, V.P. House,
New Delhi. Member.

ix) Smt. Chandresh Kumari,
M.P. Lok Sabha,
C-1/16, Pandara Park,
New Delhi. Member.

x) Smt. Nirmala Shaktwat,
M.P. Lok Sabha,
164, South Avenue,
New Delhi. Member.

xi) Smt. Jayanti Natarajan,
M.P. Rajya Sabha,
AB-8, Pandara Road,
New Delhi. Member.

xii) Smt. Najma Heptullah,
M.P. Rajya Sabha
4, Akbar Road,
New Delhi. Member.

xiii) Smt. Amarjit Kaur
M.P. Rajya Sabha
23, Indira Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi. Member

xiv) Smt. Ela R. Bhatt
M.P. Rajya Sabha
90, North Avenue,
New Delhi. Member

xv) Smt. Sheila Kaul
M.P. Lok Sabha
5, Ashok Road,
New Delhi. Member.

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xvi) Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali
Patriot,
Link House,
Bahadurshah Zafar Marg,
Delhi-110 002. — Member

xvii) Smt. Sarojini Varadappan,
48, Women Road,
Mylapore, Madras. — Member

Scientist

xviii) Dr. Archana Sharma,
35, Ballyganj Circular Road,
Calcutta — Member

xix) Smt. Jaya Arunachalam,
55, Bhim Sena Garden Road,
Mylapore-4, Madras — Member

xx) Ms. Aparna Sen,
Editor - Sananda,
Ananda Bazar Patrika,
6, Prafulla Sarkar Street,
Calcutta. — Member

xxi) Smt. Aloka Mitra,
10-A, Alipur Avenue,
Calcutta-29 — Member

xxii) Ms. Nandita Haksar,
56, Munirka Enclave,
New Delhi-67 — Member

xxiii) Smt. Sasmeeta Srivastava,
Chairman,
Central Social Welfare Board,
Jeevan Deep Building,
New Delhi. — Member

xxiv) Ms. Mrinal Pande,
C-II/31, Tilak Marg,
New Delhi — Member

xxv) Dr. Nirmala Deshpande,
2, South Avenue,
New Delhi. — Member

xxvi) Smt. C. Sivasankari,
7, First Link Street,
Karpagam Garden,
Madras-20. — Member

...p/4/-

xxvii)	Prof. Philomena Reddy Home Science Department, Srivenkatesura University TIRUPATI	Member
xxviii)	Ms. Sheila Barse No. 3-A, Ratna Deep, 29, Juhu Tara Road, Bombay.	Member
xxix)	Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development	Secretary

3. The terms of reference of the Committee will be:-

a) to advise the Central and State Governments from time to time on the policy, legislative and administrative measures necessary for removing economic and social inequalities affecting Indian women and to suggest ways and means to enable women to achieve their inherent potential and utilise their capacity to contribute to the development process; and

b) to review the progress of implementation of policies and programmes designed in pursuance thereof.

4. The National Committee shall ordinarily meet once a year or as often as the Chairman decides. It may appoint a Steering Committee and/or other sub-committees to assist it in its deliberations.

5. The term of the Committee shall be for a period of two years from the date of its constitution.

6. The non-official members of the National Committee

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will be eligible for TA and DA as admissible to Class I Officers of the Government of India.

C P Sujaya

(C.P. Sujaya)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to all the Members of the Committee, all the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, President's Secretariat, the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the Planning Commission and the Chief Secretaries and Secretaries concerned with Women and Child Development in the State Governments/Union Territories.

Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

C P Sujaya

(C.P. Sujaya)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India
10/2/89.

The Manager,
Government of India Press,
Faridabad.

Telegrams : WOMEN CHILD

D.O.No.3-3/87-WW

Telex : 31-5381 WCD IN

सत्यमेव जयते

C.P.SUJAYA
Joint Secretary

भारत सरकार
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय
(महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT)

शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001, दिनांक
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110001, Dated 25 April 1988

Dear Ms Haksar,

The first meeting of the National Committee on Women of which you are a Member will be held shortly under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. One of the items on the Agenda will be a discussion on the draft National Perspective Plan for Women which has recently been finalised. I enclose a copy of this document for your perusal so as to enable you to go through it before the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

(C.P. SUJAYA)

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

Archana Sharma

DRAFT NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR WOMEN (1988 - 2000AD)

Additions and modifications suggested

PART I : PREFACE

Page ii) para 3: Add "Above all, information of the benefits and services available must be known widely, so that the women can approach the correct sources".

Page 11: (b) "The importance of work physiology of women must be assessed as related to the reduction of occupational and health hazards".

Page 14: Under Rural development

viii) "in effective application of science and technology to remove their drudgery". This aspect needs stress.

Page 15: "Mechanisation may be allowed in cases where the work is hard and strenous and injurious to health." In such cases indigenous innovations may be used, which would be low cost and easily made, e.g., baskets with wheels for transporting fodder and fuel, etc.

Page 26: Item 55: Specific strategies are needed to optimise the availability and access of women to such resources.

Pages 41 - 42: In order to arrive at the national target of net reproduction rate of one by 2000 AD, family planning needs greater emphasis. In addition to the methods suggested, the involvement of older women is needed, for effective transmission of awareness, modelled on Mothers Club in Indonesia and Chinese neighbourhood committees of elderly women. These women have an effective role in rural societies, in view of the traditional joint family system.

Health and nutrition should also be considered for the single woman, - widow or unmarried - or without any family support. Self-sufficiency and old age support may lead to decreasing marriage and birth rates.

These items need inclusion under the general and specific recommendations.

(contd 2)

Page 72: Under Education

Item 6.10: The curricula for science and environmental awareness programmes should be relevant to the local conditions.

age 75: Under Health

Item 7.11: Health care should be a right of all women.

7.12 More research and information are needed on women-related diseases, particularly those related to genetic (sex-linked) and specific occupational origin.

Additional inputs from Science and technology at different levels

In supportive services, for the reduction of drudgery, labour and occupational hazards under specific local conditions, e.g., wheels, pulleys for transport of fuel, fodder, water, etc.

In Education.

At undergraduate level, introduction of courses relevant to women

i) Work physiology (ergonomics) as related to nutrition and occupation in women;

ii) Basic tenets of genetics, related to family studies, genetic disorders and environmental effects.

At postgraduate level and above, researches can be carried out on work- related physiological abnormalities and physical and mental impairments in women, e.g., spinal strain after carrying loads. Very little data is available on these aspects in Indian women. Further work is also needed on genetic diseases and their inheritance, as related to the ethnic group and environmental setup, in this country. This is particularly important for sex-linked inherited disorders, like muscular dystrophy and haemophilia, where the women are the carriers.

At the higher levels, research workers, particularly in biomedical sciences have a high percentage of women. However this training is often dissipated in "routine" work when the woman tries to balance her family and research. Alternatively, many women have to take up professions in which the training is wasted. This is another type of "brain drain" and requires to be investigated.

AGENDA NOTE

The primary purpose of planned development for women is to ensure their active economic participation in the development process, their integration in the mainstream of the economy with equity and social justice. Women, therefore, have to be looked upon as producers and participants and not only as recepients or consumers. One of the major in-built biases in our society has been the discrimination against women on the basis of their sex.

2. While there have been advances in the status of women in the country in the last few years, the fact still remains that women continue to occupy a lower status in society compared to that of men, and this is due to a number of social, economic, cultural and religious factors.

3. The primary purpose, therefore, of setting up the National Committee on Women under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is to advise the Government on the measures to be taken to accelerate the involvement of women in the development process and to ensure for them the status envisaged in the Constitution of India through appropriate policy interventions and action programmes.

4. Keeping in mind the growing realisation that a lot more needs to be done in the development sector for women in this country, a Core Group was set up to prepare a National Perspective Plan for Women upto the year 2,000. This Group has recently finalised the draft Plan Document.

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This Document has been circulated to the Members of the National Committee. The general recommendations are at pages 57 to 60 of the draft Plan Document and the specific sectorwise recommendations from pages 62 to 81 of the same document. A discussion on the Plan is Proposed at the meeting. The objective in discussing these recommendations is to enable the formulation of a national policy with specific suggestions for increasing the participation of women in development.

5. In addition to this, Members of the Committee have been asked to submit topics for discussion for the meeting of the National Committee. A statement indicating the names of the Members and the suggestions made by them is enclosed.

NO.	NAME OF THE MEMBER	SUGGESTIONS
1.	Ms. Shiela Barse	1. Education and the Girl Child 2. Police and women
2.	Ms. Sivasankari	1. Setting up of "partially paid dormitory homes" for retired single women. 2. Inculcation of self-confidence in women through special classes at the school and college levels.
3.	Ms. Archna Sharma	1. Use of technological innovations for lessening the workload of women at home, in the fields and in the labour force. 2. Enlarged participation by women in science and technology careers.
4.	Ms. Sarojini Varadappan	1. More poverty alleviation schemes for women in rural areas. 2. Greater involvement of voluntary women's organisations which should be properly trained to take up local leadership.
5.	Ms. Nirmala Deshpande	1. Problems of SC & ST women specially of the working class. 2. Problems of Muslim women should be given priority.
6.	Ms. Amarjeet Kaur	1. Self-employment schemes for women in rural areas.
7.	Ms. Jaya Arunachalam	1. New effective delivery mechanisms for distributive justice to the poor at the grass root levels. 2. Major portion of plans should be implemented through NGOs. 3. Integrated approach to health problems is required becauses health problems cannot be tackled in isolation. 4. The enforcement machinery for social legislation needs to be strengthened.

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5. Women's child bearing role should be considered a social responsibility and greater social security and maternity benefits should be provided.

6. The female child needs more attention.

7. Social evils such as dowry, etc. have increased because clear cut priority rights for women do not exist. Special cells to deal with dowry cases in each police station should be set up and special ordinances to ensure property rights for women should be considered.

8. The new education policy should prepare women for geeting jobs.

9. Research on women issues and systematic study of these is a major missing link and women's studies departments should be created in all universities.

10. The workers in the unorganised sector remain invisible and are exploited. Therefore, special enforcement machinery to enforce labour legislation for women should be set up.

8. Dr. Philomena Reddy

1. Education of women regarding their rights and responsibilities.

2. District level counselling for women.

3. Integrated training of rural adolescent girls for better family life.

9. Mrs. Aloka Mitra

1. Monitoring of current programmes for women's development.

2. Developing strategies for implementation of policies and integrated programmes for women.

3. Participation of women in planning and implementation.

10. Mrs. Ela R. Bhatt

1. Asset building for poor women.

2. Police atrocities on innocent women.

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11.	Smt. Sasmeeta Srivastava	1. New strategies which are pragmatic and sensitive to women's needs must be devised.
		2. All existing statutory laws and administrative regulations should be reviewed with a view to simplifying them and making them more relevant.
		3. Simple accounting, reporting, auditing and evaluating systems must be devised for voluntary organisations.

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

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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

Sheela Barse

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 alliviation 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:

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 villege resources of nutrition to urban markets should be prevented.

iii. Health portfolio shouldbe 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 ~~xxx~~ 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 struct 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 bycycles 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 be 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 current laws. My original proposals are still pending ~~kuruxu~~ with the Welfare Ministry.

Sports

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

Funding of Volage

i. The government should fund policies not projects.

ii. Tax policies should encourage donations to NGOs

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 shoubd 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 (Rec9.10 page 77)

vi. Banking and other rules ~~requiring declarat~~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 maintence 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, divorcess.

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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, Managaement Consultant,Pune

v. Reduce dependence of NGO on foreign funding agencies.
- YUVA, a Bombay-based NGO.

vi. Consider physiotherapy as one of the professional developmentfields for women.
- Prof D.H.Dastoor,KEM Hospital,BOmbay

Dr Dastoor's Note is attached (Annexure 1)

7. Three Pune-based women's organisations 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 attached. (Annexure 2)

VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS

By Pi Lalhlimpuii, Minister of
State, Social Welfare
Govt. of Mizoram.

On going through the contents of the Draft National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988-2000 A.D., Part I along with the General and specific recommendations contained in the last few pages in detail it is felt imperatively necessary to formulate well articulated national policies with specific objectives for increasing the participation of women in developmental plans. The plans should aim at the creation of productive employment for women as well as provision of services to women so as to enable them to participate more fully in economic growth and social progress.

The views expressed in the ' Draft National Perspective Plan for Women ' were very much appreciated by me, and enlightened me in many ways as to what course of actions have to be taken in course of time to come in the lines of women and child development.

1 Unlike most of other status in the country, women in Mizoram have enjoyed the opportunity of more or less equal status with men in various walks of life and in particular, in employment opportunities, while in various other fields some steps are yet to be taken to improve the status of women in respect of traditional and customary laws.

Though I am yet to hear more of various views from other members of the ' National Committee on Women ' I would like to take this opportunity of putting forward the following suggestions and views of mine for consideration :

I. A State Level Committee on Women be constituted in each of the status in the country with the state Chief Minister, as Chairman, the concerned Minister as the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary of the Department concerned as Member-Secretary. Besides above, some non-official members of Prominent Social Workers and official members, including Chairman of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board as one of the members, may be appointed as members.

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This ' State Level Committee on Women ' will be entrusted to take follow-up action of the decisions, resolutions and the recommendations of the ' National Committee on Women '. This ' State Level Committee on Women ' will also make recommendations of its own considered to be appropriate and relevant which will be submitted to the National Committee on Women for consideration. While the National Committee on Women should try to focus on the common problems applicable to women in different regions or status of the country as a whole and find solutions thereof, I am sure the State Level Committee on Women should in turn focus on the peculiar problems of women in a particular region or a state and their solution as solution of such peculiar problems is equally important as solution to the common problems of the entire country. Hence my suggestion for constitution of a ' State Level Committee on Women '.

II. Women Development Corporation be set up in Mizoram, and in each of other states in the country as well. This Women Development Corporation, being one of the two major implementing bodies for the implementation of various economic programmes mostly through governmental agencies/ departments will take up various economic programmes. In this connection I may be allowed to mention that on the advice of the Indian Council for Child Welfare we had programmed to set up one such Women Development Corporation in Mizoram and proposal along with schemes was submitted under the Annual Plan for 1988-89 for implementation in Mizoram. To our surprise, the Planning Commission, for reasons not known to us, had turned down the proposal at the time of Plan Discussion and as such we had to drop the altogether. Taking this opportunity I would like to submit that more positive steps be taken by this Committee at National level so that any state willing to set up such Women Development Corporation be given an opportunity to do so.

The above two suggestions of mine may be referred to the Sub-group concerned for their consideration and perusal in their sitting on 8-6-1988.

Prof (Ms) P.R. Reddy
S. V. University,
Tirupati - 517502
(A. P.)

May , 1988

Presentation to the National Committee on Women: Education & Training for Self Awareness & Self Reliance

Focus : Adolescent Girls & Young Women.

PART - A

From the point of view of the " quality" of our future generation, the most crucial segment of our population is today's young girls who are just on the threshold of marriage & motherhood. It is precisely also this segment of our population that has been sadly neglected in all our developmental and educational programmes.

As per 1981 census, 75 per cent of women in India are illiterate. This situation is not improved any by the high drop out rate for girls at the primary stage and at the middle school stage. In the rural context an overwhelming majority of the girls in most parts of the country are illiterate. A good percentage never enter school. Of those who enter, a high proportion drop out well before reaching the 5th standard. Thus, a great majority of our girls reach their adolescence mostly as illiterates or semi-literates with no skills and no practical knowledge which could prepare them for their future roles. This situation perpetuates illiteracy, poverty, undernutrition & underdevelopment since these girls who later become home makers cannot understand the value of education and cannot take advantage of the many development programmes of agriculture, health and nutrition. They lack special skills for employment and therefore take a subordinate role in the family and the society. They are also wholly unaware of their legitimate rights as citizens. Not having had the benefit of schooling themselves, they do not appreciate the value of education for their daughters. So, the daughters turn out to be illiterate like

the mothers. It becomes imperative then to break this vicious cycle by focussing our attention on the adolescent girls and young women and educating them to self reliance.

The Proposal : The strategy is to bring about a socio-economic transformation of our poor rural communities through a programme of nonformal education & training addressed exclusively to the girls and women between 12 and 20 years living in rural areas. All girls including those who have not had primary school education and who are currently illiterate will be eligible for the programme.

The programme can be termed as " Integrated Education for Better Living". The girls should be given practical instruction through audio-visual aids only, in the following areas :

- Personal hygiene and environmental education;
- Nutrition-value of different local foods and types of nutritious recipes that can be made out of them, preparation of inexpensive balanced diets out of local foods;
- New agricultural technology for increased food production ,effective and economical use of fertilisers,safe & timely use of pesticides;
- Simple post-harvest technology for preventing food wastage during storage,methods for preservation and storage of perishable foods;
- Sex education & family planning;
- Care of the new-born & infant feeding & rearing;
- Child care and development;
- Home nursing and first-aid;
- Available health care facilities & their utilisation;
- Immunisation,care of diarrhoeas (oral rehydration) and diseases of children,simple remedies for common ailments;
- Importance of education of children and
- Legal rights of women and citizens and their obligations.

The approach and emphasis in this programme should be that of developing the women to self reliance. These girls and young women should learn and grow to consider themselves as potential contributors and not as mere receipients of welfare services and programmes.

Vocational Training : The girls should also receive training in simple crafts appropriate to the location, the appropriateness being determined by tradition, local acceptability and marketability of the product manufactured. A wide range of crafts may be considered anywhere from basket-weaving, knitting, wooden handicrafts to preparation of processed foods and silk-worm farming.

Governmental organisations with considerable information and experience in this area can be involved in the aspects of training and marketing.

Facilities for attending the Programme : Past experiences and our social traditions demand that we should create certain facilities and support services to enable the girls and young women to enter and attend the programme regularly.

1. An awareness to the importance of such education & training of the girls has to be created among the local community members involving the local leaders;

2. The venue of education should be accessible to the girls that is preferably within walking distance from their homes;

3. A ~~CK~~ creche or balwadi near the centre, so that the girls /women could leave the younger siblings in their care in these places while they attend the educational programme;

4. The programme should not last for more than three hours each day and it should be given at timings and days covenient to the learners;

5. The entire programme should be so designed as not to extend ~~XXX~~ beyond three to six months;

6. The programme should be offered exclusively to the girls and young women. The instructors must be women preferably of local origin.

The training of the women instructors can be with the joint collaborati of agricultural universities with the home science colleges, the NCERT and the Central Health Education Bureau.

Outstanding Voluntary Organisations & Associations with a commitment for women's development could be involved to assist in the implementation of the programme at the local and regional levels.

An apex body for women's education & training needs be created to plan, monitor, educate and operationalize training programmes for women.

PART - B

While illiterate and semiliterate women are at a great disadvantage and remain at the submerged levels of the society with regards to their status the literate and educated women, atleast the majority of them, tend to maintain the low traditional profile of the home maker. They tend not to perceive themselves as contributors. They are not aware of their political rights, responsibilities and potential strengths. Their participation in decision-making at the home level the community level & all other levels is not of significance. Therefore their participation in formal and informal political processes is low. Motivating and encouraging these literate and educated women for greater participation in development is a challenge of the present times.

Proposal : The situation explained above can be tackled both through the formal sector and through the non-formal sector in education.

The Department of Women's Studies of Indira Gandhi National Open University can develop courses for educating women by distance education with regards to the situation of women in India and in other South East Asian Countries; the cultural and historical perspectives of women's role in the Indian society; the constitutional rights and responsibilities of Indian Women and current challenges for women's development. Useful information on various governmental

and non governmental organisations involved in moving women to social action, in the development of women and on the programmes for the development of women can also be extended through this process.

The mass media such as the T.V., film, radio and print should promote the positive image and status of women and avoid programmes, visuals and articles which focus on and emphasize the traditional role of the home maker and denigrate the status of women.

Every university must create a centre for women's studies, the main functions of which would be a) to conduct researches related to women's status and issues; b) to conduct seminars and workshops to raise awareness to women's problems and to motivate women for participation in political process and development and c) to prepare and produce resource materials for training women functionaries of programmes for women.

In the school system no effort should be spared to screen the curricula, the resource materials and text books to eliminate sex sterotyping and to promote and to perpetuate exquisite balance between girl and boy.

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SUB GROUP- FOR ECONOMIC ISSUES REGARDING WOMEN.

Following points may be considered for the economic development of women in the meeting of subgroup of National Committee of Women at 10.00 AM ON 8th June 1988 at the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Shiri Institutional Area, Opposit Poolice Station Hauz Khas, New Delhi.

(1) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY EDUCATION:

(a) To promote literacy among women and to undertake programmes for the general development and promotion of education among women.

(b) Only women teachers be employed in all primary and Junior High Schools-so that educated women may have greater opportunities of employment. It may be done in phases.

(c) To set up Anganwaris in each village under ICDS programme and thereby give employment to educated women of the village or nearby places.

(2) TRAINING

(a) To conduct training programmes for women in ITI's.

(b) To conduct training programmes for women in Polytechnics.

(c) To conduct training programmes for women in Trysem.

Preference should be given to widows and all those women who are below the poverty line.

(3) AGRICULTURE

(a) To plan, promote, undertake and assist programmes of agricultural development, animal husbandry, marketing, processing, supply and storage of agricultural products.

(b) To provide margin money loan(interest rate 4%) and

or/subsidy to women individuals, members of co-operative societies and others for their trade, business or other economic activities. Where the provided margin money is not sufficient, the balance amount required may be met by private sources or by securing financial assistance from financing institutions.

(4) INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION & MARKETTING

(a) To promote entrepreneureship among women.

(b) To identify trades and industries which can be taken up by women and to undertake feasibility studies of such schemes for the benefit of women entrepreneures.

(c) To set up Mahila Kalyan Nigam in the States, to undertake above activities and to make bulk purchases of raw materials, machineries, tools and implements and to ensure their fair distribution among women entrepreneures.

(d) To undertake marketting activities and in pursuance thereof set up sales Emporia within and out side the states of India.

(e) To undertake production activities with a view to provide employment to women and in pursuance thereof to set up workshops and other production units.

(5) JOBS IN SERVICES.

(a) More jobs in the Police department may be sanctioned for women so that proper care could be taken of cases of atrocities on women.

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(b) Women should be entitled to a package of services at the block level created by the convergence of schemes such as DWCRA, NORAD, ICDS, Adult Education, Health care etc. at the grass roots administrative level. Every district should have a coordinator for all these programmes aimed at the development of women. The Coordinator will be responsible for monitoring/ supervising these programmes at the grass roots as well as for providing feed back for effective planning and evaluation.

(c) Working women Hostels be set up to enable single ladies live in them with security and economically.

In every case priotity should be given to women who are below the poverty line.

No. 3-3/87-WW
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-1

DATED : 18th JULY 1988

Subject :- National Committee on Women - Minutes of the first meeting

Madam,

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of the first meeting of the National Committee on Women under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, held on 17 May 1988.

Yours faithfully,

(C.P. SUJAYA)
Joint Secretary to Govt. of India

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

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN HELD ON 17 MAY 1988

The first meeting of the reconstituted National Committee on Women was held on 17 May 1988 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. A list of participants is annexed.

At the outset Ms Geeta Mukherjee and Ms. Nandita Haksar raised queries regarding the composition, the powers and the functioning of the National Committee. A view was expressed that national women's organisations and different political parties should have been represented on the Committee. The Chairman clarified that the National Committee was not a federation of organisations. It had been deliberately kept small and included representatives of different relevant areas such as parliamentarians, voluntary organisations, the academic sector, media and law. The Committee was purely an advisory body and its recommendations would be sent to the concerned Ministries and organisations.

With regard to the main item on the agenda, i.e. the draft National Perspective Plan for Women, various views were expressed regarding the processing of its recommendations. While some members felt that they could submit their views in writing after consulting organisations and social workers, others called for a national debate and suggested that the draft Plan may be made a public document. Smt. Margaret Alva, Minister of State for Women & Child Development, explained

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that the draft Plan was actually the culmination of a debatewhich has been going on throughout the Women's Decade and had been drafted within the framework of accepted principles and policies. Part I contained certain general recommendations and a summary of sectoral recommendations based on detailed papers which would be made available in part II and III of the report later. She asked the National Committee to give specific directions on the steps to be taken to finalize the report and have it accepted at various levels. She mentioned that a preliminary discussion with the Planning Commission had already taken place and suggested that the Central Social Welfare Board could discuss it with the Chairmen of the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards and representatives of voluntary organisations. A meeting with State Ministers had been proposed by the Department. Minister for Human Resource Development advised that the meeting with State Ministers could be held after obtaining the reaction of the members of the National Committee, State Social Welfare Advisory Boards and voluntary organisations.

The Chairman suggested that the recommendations of the draft Plan could be discussed in the meeting and it could thereafter be assessed whether committees should be set up to study the report further. The members then expressed their views which are summarised below.