

CHAPTER 15

SOCIAL WELFARE

The basic mandate of the Social Welfare Department is to provide institutional arrangement and community based services for protection and care of weaker sections of the society. The Department aims to create a healthy environment free from exploitation through a multi prolonged strategy for eradication of social evils/problems, developing infrastructure, delivery of services to the economically and socially backward group in rural and urban sectors. It also works towards improving the life style of the weaker section of the society by providing reasonable financial assistance under various schemes and skill training to make them self dependent.

Acts like Juvenile Justice Act, Welfare and Maintenance of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act, Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, etc. are also enforced by the department.

- **WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZEN:-**

The department has constituted the U.T & District Council for rendering Advice/recommendation for the welfare of Senior Citizens. An Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens is being implemented wherein sensitization of general public regarding various provisions on welfare and maintenance of senior citizen Act, Care and protection to Senior citizen, providing old age monthly pension to Senior citizens, maintaining old age home, appointment of Protection Officers and family counselors, Recreation Centers/Day Care centers/Short stay Homes, through NGOs are the main programmes. The protection Officers are also appointed under Welfare and maintenance of Parents under Senior Citizen Act.

- **WELFARE OF DISABLED:**

The scheme for persons with disability is basically designed to provide succor to persons with 40 % or more disability and who does not earn enough to sustain themselves. The department provides assistance of ₹ 2000/- per month to persons with disability per month. During the 12th Five Year Plan, it is proposed to introduce two new scheme viz. “Scholarship to Disabled Students” wherein students studying in ITI/Polytechnic will be given financial assistance and providing of Improvised Two Wheeler at subsidized rate to eligible persons. The department maintains a Home for Disabled children at Ferrargunj. A scheme namely National Programme for Rehabilitations of the

Persons with Disabilities (NRPD). Department also supports for artificial limb application from mainland.

- **EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:-**

The Social Welfare department provides safe and budget accommodation to working women who come away from their homes for the sake of employment in the three Hostels located at Dollygunj & Pongy chaung and Car Nicobar. During the 12th Five Year Plan, it is proposed to construct a Hostel at Rangat for the same purpose. Besides, these programmes, financial assistance to widows and destitute women who have no other source of income and whose monthly income does not exceed ₹1000/- per month is also being provided to widows and Destitute @ ₹ 2000/- per month as a social security measure. Besides, a Swadhar Home for Destitute Women, Services of Protection Officer, domestic violence and child marriage etc

- **WELFARE OF JUVENILES:-**

The Scheme envisages maintenance of Home for Delinquent Juvenile (Boys, Girls) and Children Homes established under juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000. The department maintains One Special/observation Home for delinquent juveniles at Port Blair one Children Home for boys at Ferrargunj and a Home for abandoned/neglected and helpless orphan girls. Those Committees to ensure care and protection of children as envisaged under the Act were constituted. Most of the provisions contained in ICDS are also implemented.

- **INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS):-**

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme is being implemented in A & N Islands through 5 ICDS Project and 689 Anganwadi Centres and 19 Mini Anganwadi Centres functioning throughout the Islands. All habitations have been covered under this Scheme which provides health, nutrition and educational services to children below the age of 6 years, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls. Beneficiaries which include children of the age group 6 months to 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers are provide supplementary nutrition. All these beneficiaries are eligible for supplementary nutrition. A Minimum of ₹ 8.50 per day.

- **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) – SABLA:-**

This scheme is implemented in the four ICDs Projects located in South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman Districts wherein nutrition is being

provided to 11 to 14 years of out of school going and 14 to 18 years of all girls. Various types of trainings provided to Adolescent girls through the four ICDS projects under this scheme. All the out of school going girls and girls in the age group of 14-18 years are provided with supplementary nutrition @ ₹ 8.50/- per day.

VII. “Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)”:-

IGMSY scheme is implemented in the ICDS Projects in the district of South Andaman with the objectives of improving the health and nutrition status of pregnant and lactating woman by conditional cash transfer as maternity benefit to pregnant and lactating women as part compensation for wage loss during pregnancy and lactation period to women fulfilling specific conditions linked to maternal and child care behavior and responses. Cash incentive of ₹ 6000/- in two installments is being provided to Pregnant and Lactating woman whose age is 19 years and above, for their first two live births.

• **WELFARE OF MINORITIES:-**

Scholarship Scheme for Minorities: The Department is implementing Pre-metric, Post-Metric and metric-cum-means scholarship Schemes for the students belonging to Minority communities. Under the Pre-Metric scholarship, an amount of ₹ 5200/- is released for tuition, admission and maintenance. In Post-metric scholarship an amount of ₹ 15,100/- is provided for admission/course fee and maintenance. Under Merit-cum-Means, an amount of ₹ 30,000/- is provided towards admission and maintenance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

• **MULTI SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:-**

The Ministry of Minority Affairs, GOI has sanctioned three Projects for the Minority concentrated District of Nicobar under the scheme. They are i) Construction of 35 Anganwadi Centres, ii) Distribution of modern teaching aids in 25 schools and iii) construction of an ITI at Car Nicobar. So far, construction of 33 Anganwadi Centres and distribution of Modern Teaching Aids in 12 Schools has been done. Construction work of one AWC is in progress. The work of construction of I.T.I Building has been constructed by the APWD during the year 2013-14.

Major Achievement for the year 2013-14 and 2014-15

- The Department provided Financial Assistance @ ₹ 2000/- Per month as pension to 10359 Senior Citizens. 2385 Persons with Disability, 4736 widows, 664 Destitute Women every month where as during 2014-15 the

same benefit was provided to 11445 senior citizen 2843 person with disability,5350 widows,961destitute women.

- The department provided institutional service/shelter to 14 Senior Citizens, 14 Disabled and 14 Children (Boys) and 15 Girls in the Departmental Homes
- Constituted Advisory Council for Minorities
- De-addiction campaign titled 'My Andaman Addiction Free Andaman' in association with Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyala was launched in the Islands during May & June 2013
- The department started artificial limb application to disabled and Shri Bonifas Ekka, got the benefit of artificial limb application at NIOH, Kolkata, who had lost both of his arms due to electrocution was the first case
- Constituted UT & District Council for rendering Advice/recommendation for the welfare of Senior Citizens under the Senior Citizen Rules, 2012
- Vocational training on "Computer Application" was provided to 30 Adolescent girls in the project area of ICDS, Ferrargunj during May, 2013 whereas 30 Adolescent girls were trained in food processing under the ICDS Urban Project and various types of training given to Adolescent girls in North Andaman
- Grant in Aid provided to two NGOS's i.e. R.K. Mission and Seva Niketan who are working for the Welfare of destitute and Orphan children
- Registration of Child Care Institutions (CCIs): Seven Child Care Institutions (CCIs) was registered under JJ Act
- State Adoption Placement Agency (LAPA): '*Nirmala Shishu (Child Care Institution)*' has been declared as '*State Placement Agency (LAPA)*'
- Management Committee, Children's committee and State Level Inspection Committee were constituted under Juvenile Justice Act for the care and protection of Children
- Provided nutritious food to 13651 children below the age of 6 years; 3675 Pregnant & lactating mothers and 10829 Adolescent Girls through 708 Anganwadi centres functioning under 5 ICDS project During 2014-15

supplementary food was provided to 12447 children with age group from 6 months to 6 years and 3277 to lactating mother and pregnant ladies pre education was provided to 3882 children.

- Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction accorded for construction of 32 Anganwadi Centres in South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman District
- 33 Anganwadi Centres were constructed in Nicobar district under MsDP and provided building to all Anganwadi centres in Nicobar district, except two Mini Anganwadi centres
- For the first time, a baseline survey/evaluation study of all the 708 AWCs was got done through an independent NGO for Accreditation and Star Grading based on the parameters of physical infrastructure, tools and equipments, cleanliness and hygiene, availability of potable water, kitchen, functional toilets etc. The study report will now serve as a road map for the department to make systematic intervention to make qualitative improvement in the delivery of services for the welfare of young children and pregnant/lactating mothers.
- To eliminate the incidence of malnutrition amongst children, a new programme with the active support of District Administration was launched on pilot project basis in Diglipur Area. A total of 8227 children including Non-ICDS beneficiaries were weighed. 111 cases of severe malnutrition were detected initially. Concerted efforts by ICDS functionaries in convergence with the functionaries of health department by referral, inpatient treatment in hospitals, persistent home visits and counselling have brought down the number to 58 in March 2014.

Details of Infrastructure available with Department Island and location wise

Sl. No.	Infrastructure	Nos.	Remarks
1	Directorate of Social Welfare	1	Goalghar, Port Blair
2	Old Age Home	1	Ferrargunj.
3	Orphan Home for Boys and Girls	2	Abhuday Complex, Ferrargunj and GB Pant Hospital Coplex in Port Blair.

4	Destitute Home/Swadhar Home	1	Dolygunj, Port Blair. (Part of WWH, Dollygunj).
5	Home for Disabled	1	Abhudaya Complex, Ferrargunj
6	Observation Home cum Special Home	1	Nayagaon, Port Blair
7	Working Women's Hostel	3	One at Dollygunj, One at Pongy chaung port blair and one at Car Nicobar.
8	Day Care Centres for Children	4	North Andaman-Diglipur.
9	Anganwadi Centres	131	131 Anganwadi buildings are owned by department throughout the Islands
10	District Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled	1	Brookshabad, South Andaman.
11	Anganwadi Training Centre	1	Atom Pahad, Portblair.
12	Type II quarter	4	Port Blair and Ferrargunj
13	Type I quarter	2	Nayagaon, Port Blair

TRIBAL WELFARE

Govt of India notified six Scheduled Tribes in the UT of A&N Islands. Barring Nicobarese, other five tribes are PVTGs who are in different stages of acculturation. Andamanese and Onges have been rehabilitated in Strait Island & in Dugong Creek of Little Andaman respectively. They are provided with infrastructural facilities and given welfare support. Their children are now going to school and many adults work in Administration. The other three tribes namely Jarawas, Sentinelese and Shompens continue as hunter-gatherers. They are Particularly Vulnerable, due to location of settlements of non-tribals from the mainland India-close to tribal habitat. The Administration has to do a fine balancing of livelihood interests of PVTGs & settlers. These non-tribal settlers were brought to the islands due to settlement policy of British India & also by Independent India. Andaman Aadim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) a registered society, constituted by the A&N Administration in the year 1979 functions as a trustee to take care of the interests of tribal communities, especially PVTGs.

Jarawas

There are 428 Jarawas living in Jarawa Tribal Reserve (JTR) of 1028 Sq.Km in South & Middle Andaman Islands. Their immediate neighbours are the settlers now numbering about 1.5 Lakh, namely, Bengalis from the erstwhile East Pakistan, Ranchis of Chota Nagpuri, Karens of Burma. As per Jarawa Policy framed in the year 2004, by GoI, the A&N Administration takes measures to protect and preserve Jarawas from any exploitation. No non-tribal is allowed to enter the Jarawa Tribal Reserve (JTR). Jarawas continue their livelihood activities with full autonomy. Only minimum and calibrated intervention is being done by the Administration, extending health facilities, preferably *in-situ* to Jarawas. A Buffer Zone of 05 km around JTR has been notified, banning therein-commercial and tourism establishments. It is ensured that no interaction by non-tribals takes place with Jarawas. Administration in 2014 has set Andaman and Nicobar



Research and Training Institute to create welfare policy framed on foundation of research and study and at every step the opinion and ideas of the concerned groups are incorporated for implementation at various level.

2. The National Highway called Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) connects the settlement villages with the HQ i.e. Port Blair. A part of ATR passes through Jarawa Tribal Reserve (JTR). As per Jarawa Policy, the movement of vehicles on the ATR is being regulated by a convoy system and monitored. The Administration is taking steps to provide an alternate sea route, to reduce the density of traffic on the segment of ATR passing through JTR. The project will be completed in about three years.



3. On the advice of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, ethnographic studies on the culture, livelihood activities, health issues etc of Jarawas are being carried out by a Group of Experts. The experts have recently identified 08 locations in the periphery of JTR, where AAJVS staff and experts will interact with Jarawas to understand their ethos, culture and their willingness to negotiate with the communities outside their territory according to their own pace. These locations called 'Hot-spots' will facilitate a two way channel of communication between Jarawas and AAJVS, thereby the required health and welfare support can be given. Recently, Jarawa women expressed their desire to wear clothes, especially while being in public space. The Group of Experts have carefully examined this matter and given appropriate recommendations to the Administration. With the approval of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt of India, these recommendations are under implementation.

Shompens

In Great Nicobar Island, Shompens (numbering 219) are living in different bands in thick tropical forests and in coasts. A tribal reserve of 992 Sqkm has been declared. Some of the bands do have symbiotic relationship with Nicobarese. At present the Administration extends health and other



welfare support, whenever demanded by the tribe. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has entrusted the task of framing Shompen Policy to the A&N Administration. The survey of the contemporary situation of Shompens, by the AAJVS, under the guidance of Group of Experts has just been commenced. It is expected that the draft policy will be ready for circulation among stake holders by the end of 2014. Research work under hard conditions is in progress to determine exactly what internal social differences are present among the Shompens.

Sentinelese

This hunter-gatherer tribe numbering 50, lives in North Sentinelese Island having an extent of 60 Sq Km. They are hostile to other outside communities. The Administration, in the past frequently visited the island on friendly contact by way of extending 'gifts'. However, after 1993, this practice was stopped. The Defence and Civil Administration keeps surveillance and looks out for the poachers, if any. The



Group of Experts is of the view that though the present 'hands-off' policy is agreeable, the Administration must have an 'eyes-open' approach, to ensure that no poachers enter into the island, in as much as the Sentinelese had the past experience of friendly contacts with the Administration. Further, the status of livelihood resources and health concerns of the tribe should be carefully evaluated, lest the tribe get diminished. The Administration has been advised by the expert to initiate a regular structured circum-navigation of the island, set for the next six months. This is being carefully examined.

Onges

The Onges have been in contact with the outsiders since 1890. The Onges have been acculturate considerably but are encouraged to still continue with some of their indigenous activities and traditions. The traditional rites and rituals are still observed by them. The present population of the Onge is 112. Initially the



Onges were scattered all over the Little Andaman Island in different bands, but later they have been settled at two places viz. Dugong Creek and South Bay in Little Andaman Island. After Tsunami, 2004, all the Onges have, on their own choice shifted to Dugong Creek, Little Andaman.

Andamanese

The Andamanese, have been settled at Strait Island in Andaman District. It is the first tribe which came in contact with the civilization through the British Administration during Penal Settlement. They were just 19 persons in late 1960's and individual Andamanese roamed around aimlessly in the Islands. The A & N Administration decided to rehabilitate the surviving Andamanese on Strait Island. Andamanese population has gradually increased to 58 now over a period of time as a result of various welfare measures undertaken by the Administration. Many of them are working as employees in the Departments of the Administration. Their children are pursuing their education with the active supporting of the Administration.



Nicobarease

The Nicobarease constitute the largest group among the tribals. They inhabit 12 of the 22 Islands in the Nicobar District. The major concentration of the Nicobarease is at Car Nicobar Island while the other Islands are sparsely populated. The work of Christian missionaries exerted an influence on the tribe. Rev. John Richardson was the first Nicobari bishop who was given western education by Mr. Vedappen Solomon, a Tamil Christian, posted to Car Nicobar from Madras Presidency as the first govt agent of East India Company. Soon after the Japanese occupation of the islands Christianity established firm hold on native life. Today the majority of the Nicobarease are Christians. There are also Muslims among the Nicobarease who were influenced by Muslim traders, originally from the Laccadives or Minicoyans, Gujarat and Surat. Nonetheless the Nicobarease observe their traditional festivals like Ossuary which include well known "Pig Fight". Tsunami, 2004 destroyed the houses and infrastructure of Nicobarease. The Administration has provided permanent shelters to all Nicobarease who have lost their houses. Essential services like

drinking water supply, power supply, postal services and telecommunication services have been provided in all Tribal Islands.



2. Due to spread of education the literacy rate among the Nicobarese is high and it is increasing rapidly. Nowadays most of the child deliveries take place in hospitals and primary health centers. A sizable number of Nicobarese are holding responsible jobs in different Government offices and in private originations as administrators, doctors, teachers, clerks, nurses, extension officers, and so on. Also, quite a few Nicobarese are in the Army, Air Force, Navy and central Reserve Police Force, posted to various parts of the country.

Plan schemes implemented by Tribal Welfare department:

In order to achieve the objectives under each mandate, the department is implementing the following five plan schemes. During the Plan period 2013-2014 a provision of ₹ 926.56 against which an amount of ₹ 921.45 lakhs has been incurred, which constitutes 99%.

Financial Achievement:

[` in Lakh]

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	FE 2013-2014	Total Expdr. Upto 31.3.2014
1.	Strengthening of the Directorate of Tribal Welfare.	169.57	166.85
2.	Grant of Additional scholarship to tribal students of pursuing higher/professional courses at Island and Mainland Colleges.	7.85	7.85
3.	Grant-in-aid to AAJVS & Tribal Councils of Nicobarese.	625.00	625.00
4.	Survey and identification of OBCs in A & N Islands.	36.83	36.83
5.	Research & Documentation of Scheduled Tribes.	85.22	85.22
	Total	924.47	921.75

Achievements:

- As per the direction of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, the A&N Tribal Research and Training Institute (ANTRI), started functioning in its premises at H/97, Haddo pursuant to the visit of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor on 2.10.2013 and was formally inaugurated by the President of India on 12th January, 2014
- On 19.04.2014, a team comprising of officers of AAJVS and Senior officers of the Departments of Forest, Health, Police and that of AnSI, Port Blair Branch, circum-navigated the North Sentinel island and spotted 16 Sentinelese in the South-Eastern coast of the island. The Administration has decided to carry out similar circum-navigations, periodically, in future to ensure safety, security and well being of the Sentinelese.
- Group of Experts has identified the 08 "Hot spots" at Bada Balu, Jhao Kona, Tirrur & Potatang in South Andaman, Phool Tala, Lewis Inlet, Lakra Lungta, Bluff Island in Middle & North Andaman. Out of which, 05 Hot spots made functional at Tirrur, Pottantang, Phooltala, Lakhra Lungta & Jahokona
- MoU signed with Manidha Naeyam Free IAS, IPS Academy, a charitable trust located at CIT Nagar at Chennai. The first batch of candidates were imparted with an orientation class by the said institute at ITI Dollygunj Campus from 30th July, 2013 to 17th August 2013 in order to examine the capability of the candidates and to select for regular courses at Chennai. Out of Nineteen (19) candidates who registered themselves for coaching, Fourteen (14) candidates qualified for regular coaching and sent to Chennai. Classes commenced from 18th Sept 2013.
- Review of TSP was done on 27.4.2013, 25.10.2013 & 28.2.2014. Out of UT's plan spending – ₹ 1586.17 Cr; an amount of ₹ 108Cr spent under Tribal sub plan constituting 7% during 2013-2014
- Survey of Malayalee settlers settled in North & Middle Andaman and Burma Tamil settlers settled in Shoal Bay was conducted. Data computerized with the assistance of NIC, Port Blair.
- Financial assistance was accorded to 2 tribal patients namely Baby Sona Annie D/o Shri Anmon R/o Harmender Bay village, Little Andaman and Jessica (7 years) D/o Shri Young of Bengali Villagew, Teressa Island
- Two tribal couples (Nicobari and Onge tribes) were sent to New Delhi to witness Republic Day Celebration, 2014
- Grant-in-aid of ₹ 500 Lac released in favour of AAJVS to meet the expenditure for welfare and developmental works of PVTGs
- GIA of ₹ 110.81 Lac released to Seven Tribal Councils of Nicobar district for the creation of following community facilities and other developmental activities in the tribal areas
- ₹ 14.19Lac released as honorarium to the 63 office bearers of Tribal Councils of Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Nancowry, Teresa, Katchal, Chowra, Great and Little Nicobar
- 151 tribal students undergoing undergraduate/ post graduate courses

sanctioned additional scholarship @ ₹ 500/- per month for the academic year 2012-13

- The rate of honorarium in respect of the officer bearers of Tribal councils has been enhanced at par with PRIs.

Source for all Photos: Directorate of Tribal welfare.