

Executive Summary

The WDS Project (Surguja, Chhattisgarh)

Background/ Initiatives Undertaken

- Widowed Deserted and Separated (WDS) women were **identified from remote corners** of the district, through surveys around various segments like General Information, Sources of Income, Health, sanitation and drinking water, Legal aid etc.
- A big team of available personnel from **21 different line departments, CSOs, PRIs and active members** was formed for this initiative
- WDS women became part of the **Self Help Group (SHG)** and were provided **skill training**
- **Awareness generation camps** were organized and **continuous follow up with WDS women** was done
- **No extra budget and no additional human resource** was utilized for this initiative
- **This initiative involved convergence of 68 different schemes**, which provided WDS women **entitlements and services**, making them self-reliant

Key Achievements/ Impact

- **As a part of this initiative, 8,998 WDS women were identified and benefited**
- **Following are the benefits provided to these women**
 - **2,196** women found Social Security through pensions
 - **822** women got Housing Security
 - **3,548** women availed better Sanitation
 - **2,426** women acquired Aadhaar Card
 - **2,621** women obtained Labor Card
 - **6,737** women got Insurance Cover
 - **1,218** women got LPG connections
 - **2,491** women benefited from bank linkages
 - **1,587** women got health security



The WDS Project (Surguja, Chhattisgarh)

Background

Vulnerability of women due to death of husband, desertion or divorce is widely prevalent but rarely acknowledged and scantily addressed in India. Situations like these are emotionally shattering, socially marginalizing and economically depriving for women and they are left with children eventually falling into the miserable trap of poverty. This established an immediate need for comprehensive intervention to provide emotional, social, economical and legal support to Widowed/Deserted/Separated (WDS) women and their children.

Approach Adopted

As part of this initiative, WDS women were identified from remote corners of Surguja district. This was done through an empirical survey conducted to locate WDS women and identify their needs. The survey was conducted around segments like general information, sources of income, health, sanitation, drinking water, legal aid etc. Data analysis was done to prepare a case to case intervention plan. Capacity building and sensitization exercise was undertaken, both for surveyors and department officials. A total 8,998 WDS women in Surguja between 18-60 years were identified and covered under the initiative.

Convergence with other schemes

Personnel from 21 different line departments, Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and active members worked towards empowerment of WDS women through benefits under 68 different schemes.

Awareness Generation



Handholding activities



Awareness Generation

District administration has undertaken number of mobilization and awareness camps where information was provided on various schemes, activities and programs of the Government. Participation of opinion leaders, elected representatives, village level functionaries and Self-help Groups (SHGs) was a critical enabling factor in spreading awareness through word of mouth.

Impact

The key outcomes of the project are highlighted below:

- 8,998 WDS women were identified and benefited through this project. Benefits provided to these women include –
 - 2196 women found social security through pensions
 - 822 women got housing security
 - 3548 women availed better sanitation
 - 2426 women acquired Adhaar card
 - 2621 women obtained Labor card
 - 6737 women got insurance cover
 - 1218 women got LPG connections
 - 2491 women benefited from bank linkages
 - 1587 women got health security
- In 2015, the State acknowledged this project's great potential for replication and issued necessary guidelines for prioritization across Chhattisgarh.

Key Contact:

Ms. Ritu Sain

Former District Collector, Surguja, Current MD, SRLM, Chhattisgarh
Block-4, First Floor, Room No. 26 Indrawati Bhawan, Naya Raipur
Chhattisgarh, 492002

Email: mdsrlm.cg@nic.in

Phone: 07712510745

Mobile: +91 7692006000