

AN INITIATIVE FOR COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MITANINS IN CHHATTISGARH

Problem Statement

Mitanins have shown sterling performance as voluntary Community Health workers in rural habitations of Chhattisgarh. Reports from evaluations and reviews have shown that owing to the voluntary nature of the programme and positioning of Mitanins at the every habitation level, the average incentives earned by Mitanins are very low i.e, ranging between Rs.300-500 per month. In order to provide social security to Mitanins, state has created Mitani Wefare Fund or the Mukhyamantri Mitani Kalyan Kosh (MKK). The purpose of MKK is to recognize the social contribution made by Mitanins and to help them in being more empowered.

Programme Description

The process of designing of MKK was very participatory. Consultations were held with more than 500 Mitanins during 14 meetings in Bastar and Sarguja divisions in April 2011 to collect the suggestions from Mitanins. Considering the voluntary nature of Mitani Trainers and Block Coordinators, it was decided that they should also be covered under MKK along with Mitanins.

The components of MKK are:

- A. Social security support for all Mitanins
- B. Health related Livelihoods Skills for Mitanins
- C. Social Recognition

A. Social Security Measures:

- **LIC life insurance cum scholarship scheme coverage:** It provides life insurance cover of Rs.50,000 to Mitani in event of death of Mitani's spouse. For Mitanins who do not have a spouse, Mitani herself has been insured. Along with life insurance, this scheme provides Rs.1200 scholarship per annum to Mitani's children studying in standard 9-12th standard. The premium charged by LIC is Rs.150 per Mitani. This scheme is a combination of Aam Admi Bima Yojana and Janashree Bima Yojana of GoI. It allows benefits of around Rs. 240 lakh (Rs. 168 lakh as scholarships to around 14000 children and Rs.72 lakh as insurance claim for around 180 deaths) per annum to reach Mitanins. Against these benefits, the annual cost of this entire activity is around Rs.92 lakh. State Health Resource Centre acts as the nodal agency for this scheme. SHRC has compiled a computerized Mitani Database which has been used to cover all Mitanins under this scheme with effect from 1st July 2011. So far around 13,000 children of Mitanins have received scholarships and more than 160 Mitanins have received the insurance amount of death claims.
- **Support for education of Mitanins:** Mitanins are being given cash incentives to encourage them to study further. Any Mitani who passes 8th standard after the commencement of the scheme is being awarded Rs. 2,000. Mitanins passing 10th standard and 12th standard get Rs.5,000 and Rs.10,000 award respectively. So far around 3000 Mitanins have received this benefit.
- **Maternity Benefit for Mitani Trainers:** There was no provision of leave for this set of workforce because they are considered as volunteers compensated for wage loss for each day of work done by them. Therefore maternity benefit of Rs.15, 000 has been included in MKK to allow maternity leave of around 6 months.

- **Emergency support:** An emergency support fund has been set up under MKK for Mitans and their families. It covers emergencies like serious illnesses or disasters. Mitans are also actively supported to take benefit of existing schemes of Government e.g. children of two Mitans have been successfully operated for heart ailments under the CM's Heart Protection Scheme. Around 50 Mitans have benefited from this component.
- **Swavalamban Pension Fund Scheme:** Around 60,000 Mitans were enrolled in this pension fund scheme last year. Mitans receive Rs.1000 each in their pension fund accounts and central government also contributes a matching amount. This would enable Mitans to earn an average monthly pension of around Rs.1000 per month once she crosses age of 60. So far, around Rs. 21 Crores has been accumulated in this pension fund.

B. Health & Nutrition related Livelihoods skills for Mitans

The purpose of this initiative is to create opportunities for Mitans to earn their livelihood through activities which contribute to better health and nutrition outcomes for their communities. Therefore vocational training is provided to interested Mitans and facilitating the required linkages. So far around 400 Mitans have learnt mushroom and vegetable cultivation and have started production in their villages. Some Mitans have also learnt backyard poultry, fruit cultivation etc.

C. Social Recognition Measures – Mitans Samman Diwas (Mitans Day)

23rd November has been declared as the Mitans Day across the state in honour of Mitans completing one decade of active contribution. An appeal was issued by the Chief Minister and Health Minister of Chhattisgarh to all PRIs to honour the Mitans on this day. On 23rd November 2011, more than 6300 functions were organized through PRI contributions across the state in which thousands of Mitans were honoured by their respective PRIs and other public representatives. This has helped in providing social recognition to Mitans. The second Mitans Samman Diwas was organized on 23rd November 2012 in which around 7,500 out of the total 9800 Gram Panchayats organized and funded this event voluntarily and honoured Mitans by giving Saris etc.

A state level steering committee has been formed under leadership of the Health Minister of Chhattisgarh. SHRC has been given the responsibility of managing the funds and day to day operations of MKK with a dedicated cell for MKK. The current average annual budget requirement is about Rs. 10 Crores. In 2011-12 and 2012-13, funds were allocated by State Government but this year, some of components have been proposed under NRHM PIP 2013-14.

For further details contact

Mr. Samir Garg, Senior Programme Coordinator, Community Processes, SHRC, Raipur.

Email - koriya@gmail.com