



One Day State Level Seminar on



***Are Survival and Socio-Economic Rights of Women & Girls
Protected Through Campaigns, Schemes, Laws in Goa?***

Organised by

The International Centre Goa

in association with

Directorate of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Goa

Saturday, 14th March 2015, 10 am to 5 pm
At The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula

**List of Recommendations to be submitted to
Directorate of Women & Child Development, Government of Goa**

1. DWCD in association with Directorate of Health Services should undertake proper follow-up of tracking sale and resale of ultrasound based diagnostic equipments to avoid its illegitimate use for sex determination.
2. Online ecommerce sites should be monitored as they advertise sale of sex determination and preconception technologies that abet female foeticide
3. DWCD should set up a cell or helpline to facilitate direct reporting by victim of any kind of pressure exercised by their family or others for undergoing sex determination test, and at times undergoing abortion. The cell should have qualified/trained professionals who should work with SOPs in order to effectively address complaints.
4. DWCD should set up protocols for implementing schemes under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.
5. DWCD should maintain website and upload all information related to the functioning of the directorate including various schemes, the procedures for application, contact details of the concerned officials, etc. on that website under Section 4 of Right to Information Act, 2005.
6. Schemes relating to women and children should be simplified and made more accessible. These should be translated into local languages and electronic media should be used to create awareness about these schemes.

7. All existing schemes should be regularly and periodically evaluated and monitored by an independent team of experts and stakeholders set up by DWCD with immediate effect. The team should also ensure all who are supposed to be covered under the scheme must benefit.
8. DWCD should set up an extensive feedback mechanism for all schemes, including the existing ones, and should undergo financial audit so that regular updating and improvement could be undertaken.
9. DWCD should introduce and implement new schemes aimed at empowerment of women only after proper scientific study and proper consultation with the stakeholders. Schemes should be designed to benefit the deserving candidates and should not to be treated as freebies and charity offered by certain individuals.
10. DWCD should conduct awareness programmes about various empowerment schemes on regular basis with the aim of changing the mindset of the people. Highlight the achievements and impact of schemes by preparing proper case studies of the successful cases – such as self help groups that have become self reliant, lead to skill development, etc. with the help of any of such schemes. Educate and discourage people from seeking free doles such as pilgrimage tours from politicians.
11. DWCD should ensure that no scheme is linked to marriage. Schemes should be such that all deserving women, irrespective of their marital status i.e. even single women, should be eligible for benefiting from such financial assistance.
12. Secretary of the Goa State Commission for Women should forward all Monitoring and fact-finding reports and recommendations prepared by the Commission, as regards policies and schemes to the Legislative Assembly for the information and necessary action by way of proper policy framework by the House or the Government. The Legislature Secretariat must also be held accountable when Reports are not tabled.
13. DWCD should ensure that only DWCD administration undertakes processing of applications on the basis of merit of the cases, including its scrutiny, sanction, disbursement, etc. without any interference of politicians or party offices.
14. DWCD should ensure that there is no discrimination and partiality while sanctioning the applications.
15. DWCD should streamline the procedures for processing application to various schemes and identify and tackle any systemic problems in it with immediate effect.

16. Onus of seeking Life Certificates from beneficiaries should be on the DWCD through reminders conveyed through appropriate outreaching ways.
17. The Law Commission of Goa should be mandated to look at the discrepancies between the Mundkar and Tenancy laws, Co-operative Society law, and other laws AND the Family Laws to ensure that the said laws are synchronised in so far as women's rights are concerned.
18. A counselling desk must be set up at the office of every Taluka Registrar, to counsel every couple about the implications of marriage to their economic rights., and also the options available, as a pre-registration procedure
19. DWCD should set up mediation centres to facilitate resolution of any issues pertaining to applications to schemes, processing the claim of rights, etc. at Taluka / District level.
20. DWCD should conduct regular mass awareness programmes for women about
 - recording their rights in land records as soon as they get married;
 - importance of being aware of and having a copy of documents containing record of her rights;
 - availability of free legal aid.
21. Technology should be used to automatically link women's rights in land records – particularly during the civil registration .
22. DWCD should be made the nodal department to work with civil supplies and other departments and organise Taluka level camps for including names of women as head of the family in ration cards and other documents on regular basis.
23. Goa State Commission for Women should hold regular consultation meetings with all NGO's working on women's issues from across Goa.
24. The monies disbursed under the various schemes should be directly under the control of the beneficiary.
25. Schemes should be formulated in such a way so that female foeticide and dowry and other violations of human rights are not encouraged or perpetuated by the same.
26. DWCD must ensure that the State obligations under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act are duly complied with; and must be

accountable for non-compliance.

27. The women commission should follow up all the cases coming before the commission though matter being settled and follow up has to be reported to the department.
28. The high schools and higher secondary schools must have gender sensitisation as part of their curriculum as mandated by the Goa Children's Act 2003. This needs to be implemented. The DWCD should commission a group of experts to draw up an age appropriate curriculum and a collection of resources (including audio visual) that can help in imparting a basic understanding of gender rights and equality.