

**ACTION TAKEN MEMORANDUM ON THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN THE 12TH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 2004 TO 2005**

Chapter-11 Para No. 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, Page 49

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation No.1

Till such time the Constitutional right to free and compulsory education for the children up to 14 years of age becomes enforceable, the educational authorities of the Union and the State Governments should not create hurdles in setting up of schools by the minority communities at their initiatives and in such management of such schools. The Minority status to such schools should be granted and necessary Government assistance provided.

Recommendation No.2

Educational programmes for the development of SCs and STs should be extended to the religious minorities as well.

Recommendation No.3

Particular measures should be taken to promote modern school education for Muslim girls.

ACTION TAKEN

Minorities have the freedom to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. If this right is infringed/ violated, the matter could be brought before the National Commission for Minorities Educational Institutions (NCMEI) by the affected parties.

Further, Minority Cells have been set up in bodies like All India Council for Technical Educational (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC), Central Board of Secondary Educational (CBSE), etc. The Minority Cells in these Institutions will be able to help the minority institutions overcome some of the problems they are facing in this respect. The Government is also implementing the educational developmental programmes for all communities including SCs/STs and minorities and to the extent the minorities form part of the clientele they are benefitting from.

The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programmes for the welfare of Minorities focuses on enhancing opportunities for education through equitable availability of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, improving access to school education, providing greater resources for teaching urdu, modernizing Madrasa education, providing scholarships for meritorious students from minority communities and improving educational infrastructure through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation.

Besides, the Central Government has initiated the following schemes which are meant for minorities, including Muslim girls, to promote modern school education among them:

- (i) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) are being set up for girls at upper primary level in educationally backward blocks of the country where a minimum 75% seats are for SC/ST/OBC/Minorities; 210 KGBVs have been sanctioned in minority dominated blocks;
- (ii) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) has launched a scholarship scheme for meritorious girl students belonging to minorities in 2003-04.
- (iii) A new programme of 20,000 merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme to encourage students belonging to minorities to pursue higher studies is being launched.

- (iv) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Community Polytechnics also give special emphasis on educational upliftment of women.
- (v) The area intensive and Madrasa Modernisation Programme for Educationally Weaker Section of minority also emphasizes on women education.
- (vi) For promoting modern school education among girls, Government is implementing a scheme for providing hostel facilities for girls studying in secondary and higher secondary schools and voluntary agencies are being given grant. Minority Institutions are also availing of the facility.
- (vii) The University Grants Commission is also providing financial assistance to set up girls' hostels by minority educational institutions.

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4. RECOMMENDATION

The Government should take special steps to promote medical and engineering education among the religious minorities by setting up Industrial Training Institutes, Medical Colleges and Engineering Colleges in the districts having high concentration of minority population.

ACTION TAKEN

Noted. This aspect is being taken care of while establishing new institutions. The recommendation also has been conveyed to all State Governments and Central Ministries concerned.

Further, it has been provided in the Prime Minister's New 15 Point programme for the welfare of minorities, that a certain proportion of all new it is will be located in areas predominantly inhabited by minority communities and a proportion of existing it is to be upgraded to 'Centres of Excellence' will be selected on the same basis.

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5. RECOMMENDATION

Distance education for religious minorities using modern communications technology needs particular attention.

ACTION TAKEN

The Maulana Azad national Urdu University is already using modern Interactive Communication Technology (ICT) in its distance education programme.

Further, the scheme for introducing modern subjects in Madarsas is being revised. It is proposed to include vocational skills and if needed continue their education beyond upper primary level into secondary and higher secondary levels.

Chapter-11 Para No. 11.6 Page 49

6. RECOMMENDATION

The scheme of improvement of science education being implemented by the Ministry of HRD should have a specific component for the Muslim school children.

ACTION TAKEN

The scheme for improvement of science education has since transferred to the state sector.

The Madarasa Modernisation programme provides assistance for appointment of science teachers and for supply of science kits. It provides for help to set up libraries.

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7. RECOMMENDATION

There should be provision for mandatory and uniform payment of compensation for death, injury and damages to properties in the communal violence.

ACTION TAKEN

The Communal Violence (prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005, introduced in Rajya Sabha in December 2005, provides that while providing compensation and relief to the victims of communal violence there shall be no discrimination on the ground of sex, caste, community, descent or religion and there should be uniformity of assistance irrespective of caste, community or religion.

The Parliamentary related Standing Committee has since submitted its report to the Parliament on 13.12.2006. Thus, the Bill provides for necessary measures for mandatory and uniform compensation for victims of communal riots.

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9. RECOMMENDATION

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment may advise the States/ UTs to adopt the Karnataka model for fixing targets for extending the benefits to the minorities on the basis of the percentage of minority population in the districts. The implementation of the 15 Point Programme should be monitored as closely as the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation is doing for the 20 Point Programme.

ACTION TAKEN

The Prime Minister' 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities has since been recast. The Programme includes- (a) Enhancing opportunities for education, (b) Equitable share in economic activities and employment, (c) Improving the condition of living of minorities; and (d) Prevention & control of communal riots. Two important aspects of the programme are that (i) wherever possible, earmarking of 15% of targets and funds for minorities in the schemes included in the programme, and (ii) that the Committee of Secretaries (COS) would review the progress of the programme, with respect to monitorable targets, once every six months and report the status to the Cabinet.

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10. RECOMMENDATION

Immediate remedial action at social, religious and Government levels is needed to be taken to arrest the declining sex ratio of the Sikh community.

ACTION TAKEN

The Government of India has taken various measures for improving the sex ratio, including the sex ratio of the Sikh community. In order to check female foeticide, the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (PC&PNDT Act) has been brought into operation. The Central Government has taken a number of steps for the implementation of this Act.

- (i) A National Monitoring and Inspection Committee has been constituted at the Centre to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States. Representatives of the National Commission for Women and Department of Women and Child Development have been included in the committee.
- (ii) A 'National Support and Monitoring Cell' has been set up for effective implementation of the Act by appointing professionals from police, medical, law and social sciences as full time consultants. Initially, the Cell will focus on Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Delhi where the problem is more intense.
- (iii) Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through radio, television and print media.
- (iv) Workshops and seminars are also organized through voluntary organizations at State/Regional/District/Block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious/spiritual leaders as well as the medical fraternity to curb this practice.

Further, The Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign.'

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11. RECOMMENDATION

Urgent measures need to be taken for raising the very low fertility rate of the Parsi community. Such measures are of two types viz (a) those which require legislative changes pertaining to personal law and (b) those in which administrative and scientific assistance can be provided.

ACTION TAKEN

It is the consistent Policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the Personal Laws of minority communities unless the necessary initiative for the same comes from a sizeable cross-section of the concerned community itself. So far, no such demand has been received from the Parsi Community in this regard.

The National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai, an ICMR Institute has well established Infertility and Genetics Clinics, both headed by senior scientists of the parsi community. This institute is providing scientific assistance to infertile couples including Parsis.

Government of India has prepared National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India which recommends preparation of National Database for Human Infertility in the country. ICMR is in the process of developing the database and has initiative 2 studies:

- (i) Prevalence of Infertility in India
- (ii) Genomic of Male Infertility

Parsi community would also be studied while collecting this database. The results obtained from these studies would help in formulating specific measures for adopting the infertility condition among the Parsi.