

CHAPTER V

The Government's and Social Welfare in Odisha (2000-2010)

Introduction

Development in every sector such as poverty, health, education is very essential for building a nation or a country including a state within the country. Since the notion of the social sector is a vast one hence in this chapter we have analyzed the implementation of women and child development programmes in the state, welfare of the old and disabled, welfare of the handicapped, welfare of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes programmes. In the Indian context for the development of women and child the Women and Child development department and the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes development department play a key role in our society. This chapter mainly focuses on different schemes for women and child development, welfare of the old and disabled which were undertaken by the state government in our study period and it also discusses how far it had its effect in the state. Let us look at child welfare first.

Child welfare: It is ICDS, which is one of the important programmes for the welfare of the children. ICDS i.e. integrated Child Development Scheme was launched in Odisha on 2nd October, 1975. Today it emerges as one of the World's largest and most unique programme for early child-hood development. It provides a 6 (six) package of services, namely – Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), Non-formal Pre-School Education, Immunization, Health check/up, Referral Services and Nutrition & Health Education (GOO, Report on Activities of W & CD Department for the year 2008-09). The objectives of Integrated Child Development Scheme are as under:

- i) The improvement of the Nutritional and Health status of Children below the age of 6 (six) years, pregnant women and lactating mothers;
- ii) To develop the psychological, physical and social condition of the child;

- iii) To decrease the incidence of mortality, morbidity, mal-nutrition and school drop-outs;
- iv) To promote child Development, it is necessary to make a effective co-ordination of policy and implementation among various Departments;
- v) To increase the quality of the mother, so that she can care/ look-after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper health and nutrition education;

Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP): It is a centrally sponsored plan scheme. The cost of the scheme is shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 50:50. And its target groups are those children who are between 3 to 6 years old, also for children between the age of 6 months to 3 years, pregnant and lactating mothers and malnourished children. Under this scheme the total number of beneficiaries during 2008-09 were 48,79,722. Among these beneficiaries 40,74,342 were Normal, Mild and Moderate Malnourished children, 36,118 were severely malnourished children and 7,69,262 numbers were pregnant women and lactating Mothers. The State Government took the initiatives to revise the ration cost for these beneficiaries from 2009-10, like the Central Government. (GOO, Report on Activities of W & CD Department for the year 2008-09, W & CD Department, p.2).

From December, 2006, in this scheme the beneficiaries also included those who were from the KBK and Backward Districts in the State. It has 2 (two) broad Components:

- (i) Morning Snacks for 3-6 years old children at the AnganWadi Centre (AWC);
- (ii) Hot cooked meal for 3-6 years old children at the AnganWadi Centre. This programme helped the beneficiaries a lot to. The total beneficiaries under this programme were 33.86 lac. The beneficiaries comprised of 27.47 lac children and 6.39 lac pregnant and lactating mothers avails the benefit through a network of 37,480 AnganWadi Centre's (GOO, Economic Survey, 2007-08).

Immunization: Immunization of children and pregnant women is very necessary to prevent them from various diseases. There are 6 (six) diseases, namely – Poliomyelitis,

Diphtheria, Peruses, Tetanus, Tuberculosis and Measles which effects the children badly. So to protect the children, infants and pregnant women immunization against these diseases are important. The diseases lead to child mortality, disability, morbidity and related malnutrition.

During the year 2008-09, As per the report of the Government it is seen that many people have been immunized from various diseases, like 6.8 lac pregnant women have been covered under TT immunization; 6.3 lac children have been immunized against DPT(Diphtheria) [GOO, Report on Activities of W & CD Department for the year 2008-09, W & CD Department, p.3].

Health Check-up: The AWW and the PHC Staff have provided various health services, like Regular Health Check-ups, recording the weight, immunization, management of malnutrition, treatment of Diarrhea, Deworming and distribution of simple medicines. There are various Health centres which perform the following functions:

- (i) The expectant mothers are being provided ante-natal care;
- (ii) The nursing mothers and the new born babies are being provided post natal care;
- (iii) Care of children under 6 (six) years of age;

The children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and nursing mothers are being provided regular examination check-up in the AnganWadiCenters by the Health functionaries like Lady Health visitor and Auxiliary Nurse Mid-wife(ANM).About 8.6 lac children, pregnant women and nursing mothers have benefited under this scheme during the year 2008-09(GOO, Report on Activities of W & CD Department for 2008-09, W & CD Department, p.3).

Referral Services: Government of Odisha has provided referral services to the identified sick or malnourished children. The AWWs Work is to find out the disabilities in young children. She notes all such cases in a special register and pass on these to the Medical Officer. The usefulness of this service relies on appropriate work, co-

ordination from health functionaries and the willingness of families to use of these services.

The AWCS have provided referral services to the 6.5 lac children, pregnant women and nursing mothers during the year 2008-09.

Non-Formal Pre-School Education: In every Angan Wadi Centre, the State Govt. has provided various types of Education Kits with Toys – each year at a cost of Rs.500/- per kit. During the year 2008-09, it has been observed that 14.4 lac children (3-6 years of age) took admission under pre-school and the attendance was 12.9 lac (GOO, Report on Activities of W & CD Department for 2008-09, W & CD Department, p.3).

Nutrition and Health Education: It is one of the important components of ICDS. Through this service women can easily look-after their own problems, like Health, Nutrition and Development needs and also for their children and families. This service includes various information on basic health, nutrition, utilization of health services, family planning etc. This is made possible through counselling sessions where there is a presence of women's group, mothers meeting etc.

A newspaper report reveals that the nutritional status of only 47.33 per cent under ICDS are detected as normal as on December 2009 which means that over 50 percent of the children under six years have got supplementary nutrition under the ICDS in Odisha are either moderately or severely malnourished. It has also been found that about 0.45 percent children only are severely malnourished in the state and the moderately malnourished are at a whopping 52 percent. It is a noticeable fact that under the ICDS in Odisha the number of children that had received supplementary nutrition has increased from around 37 lakh in 2007 to over 41 lakh in 2009. ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme and Rs 180 crore or more has been disbursed against the release of 169 crore to the state. Arti Ahuja, Secretary of Women and Development has argued that the implementation of ICDS programme is not possible unless or until the overall nutritional standard in the state improves. She also notes that wrong feeding practices among rural populace and lack of hygiene also leads to malnutrition among the women and children (Express News Service, Patna, 2nd September, 2010).

Orissa State Council for Child Welfare (OSCCW): It is identified by the State Government as a nodal agency. It works for the children to help in their hardships. It is also a scrutinizing agency. It investigates all the applications connected to Adoption as well as Deemed Orphan. The council has controlled 6 (six) Balashrams (orphanages) and 9 Angan Wadi Training Centres in the State (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p. 285).

Orphanages: It is a residential institution for those children who have lost their parents or who are abandoned by their parents. In these orphanages, they can get shelter, care, education, food, cloth, medical check-up, vocational training etc. It is made for orphans and for homeless children in the age group of 5-18 years (5-25 years in case of Girls). Orphanages are being administered by NGOs and Orissa State Council for Child Welfare. It is funded by the State. The Government Economic Survey 2007-08 shows that at present there are 85 Balashrams (Orphanages) which are operating in 28 districts except Deogarh and Malkangiri. Among the 85 orphanages 6 (six) are supervised by OSCCW (Orissa State Council for Child Welfare) while the remaining 79 are controlled by the NGOs/ Voluntary Organizations, State Government also has taken initiatives for the impoverished children through adoption by host families within India and abroad.

Mid-day Meal Programme: The Mid-Day Meal Programme has been launched in the State since July, 1995. It provides a cooked noon meal to Primary School Children of all Government and Government aided Schools in the State for 210 working days in a year. The objective of this programme is to increase the enrolment, reduce the number of School drop outs and improve the nutritional status of the children. This programme is carried out by the Women and Child Development Department. The programme was introduced in the State for increasing the attendance rate in the Primary School.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Elementary Education and literacy, New Delhi is providing free rice @ 100 grams per beneficiary per day for 210 days for Primary Students and @ 150 grams per beneficiary per day for upper primary students every academic year under the scheme (GOO, Report on

Activities of W & CD Department for the year 2008-09). To combat micro nutrient deficiencies, it is very much important for the Government that the meal should contain a good quantity of vegetables particularly dark green leafy vegetables, so school feeding is very useful approach to improve the nutritional status of the children (Mid-day Meal Scheme in Odisha Field Experience).

The Government of Odisha provides funds for bringing Dal, Vegetables, Oil, Condiments from the market and transportation charges under the scheme at the rate of 0.64 paisa per beneficiary per day. In this way the Government of India has provided cooking cost @ Rs.1.58 per beneficiary per day for Primary students and for the upper Primary students the cost was Rs.2.10 per beneficiary per day. During the year 2004-05 to implement the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the Government has provided Rs. 1,930.00lac; Rs. 18,590.00lac; provision was made for the year 2005-06 for the cooks and the helpers. But till February, 2006 Rs. 13,240.97lac was disbursed. Under Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the estimate for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 17,757.80lac out of which the Central Government share was 11,038.38 lac and the state Government share was Rs. 6,719.42lac.

Emergency Feeding Programme: Under the Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RLTAP), the Emergency Feeding Programme started functioning in the year 1995-96 in KBK Districts. The programme is designed for the old, indigent, infirm persons from the BPL house-holds in the 8 (eight) KBK Districts of the State. The funds come from the Government of India through the Special Central Assistance (SCA).

The reasons behind the intensification of poverty are low productivity of agriculture and the demolition of forest, based lively-hoods, which results in poor, nutritional status of the population and low life expectancy. The old, indigent persons do not earn for the family because of lack of ability. As a result of which they are being neglected by their family members. For this reason through the programme, the Government has provided one square meal a day to old, infirm and indigent persons on a sustained basis to manage the food insecurity.

The cooked meal is provided to the beneficiaries through the Angan Wadi Centres each day under emergency feeding programmes. Each beneficiary get daily ration which was 250 grams of Rice, 36 grams of Dal, vegetables, oil, salt, condiments

and the nutritional value of the food was 812 K. Cal of energy and 21.6 grams of protein. During the year 2002-03, the charges of daily ration cost were increased from Rs.2.70 to Rs.3.03, in 2006. This has been done to increase the quality of food such as nutrition's, vegetables like drumstick, papaya, brinjal, potato, pumpkin etc. During the year 2005-06 for the implementation of this programme the Government has provided Rs. 1,992.16lac in the budget under the Revised Long Term Action Plan for KBK Districts. Under this scheme for the improvement of 2,00,000 persons an amount of Rs. 1671.42 lakh has been distributed in favour of 8 KBK districts(GOO, Report on Activities of W & CD Department for the year 2008-09, WCD Department, p.7).

Welfare of the Handicapped: For the improvement of the handicapped the State Government has taken different initiatives or welfare schemes, like Orissa Disability Pension (ODP) Scheme, Special School for Children with disability and supply of special aids and appliances. The state Government had tried to bring them into a good position in the Society.

Orissa Disability Pension (ODP) Scheme: It is a State Government Scheme introduced on the 2nd day of October, 1984. This scheme has now merged with ModhuBabu Pension Yojana and it is being affected from the 1st day of January, 2008. Under this programme, persons can get pension of Rs.100/- per month. The eligibility criteria for this pension are – persons who are 5 (five) years of age or above and are totally blind or orthopedically handicapped or mentally retarded or affected by cerebral palsy and with a maximum annual income of Rs. 12,000/-. To cover 1,25,000 beneficiaries an amount of Rs. 2,982.54lac was expended/ disbursed during the year 2006-07. The total expenditure in this regard was Rs. 3,000.00lac. During 2007-08, it was targeted to cover 2.03 lac beneficiaries and it covered 1.53 lac beneficiaries under the scheme with an expenditure of Rs.35.28 crore.

Special School for Children with Disability: The State Government has taken steps to educate the Special Children through the establishment of Special Schools. It is made for the visually impaired, hearing impaired and mentally retarded children. State Government is providing free education in this school for this type of children through specially trained teachers. There are 4 (four) Government Special Schools out

of these 2 (two) made for blind and 2 (two) made for deaf and apart from these Schools there were another 50 (fifty) Special Schools which are administered by different agencies including NGOs with grant in-aid from State Government out of these special schools 18 (eighteen) are for visually impaired, 21 (twenty-one) for hearing impaired and 11 (eleven) are for mentally retarded children. In these schools the student strength is 2939 and staff strength (both Teaching and Non-Teaching) is 620 (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.286). During the year 2006-07, the budget against this scheme was Rs.390.00 lac and then it was spent Rs.383.67 lac.

Distribution of Special Aids and Appliances: To help the disabled persons proper materials such as tricycles, blind sticks, crutches, hearing aids etc. are being distributed free of costs to a person if his or her income is Rs. 6,500/- per month or less and 50% discount are being given on the cost of materials to persons whose income ranges between Rs. 6,501/- to Rs. 10,000/- per month. Rs.146.36 lac was spent up to January, 2007 amongst 7,178 persons during the year 2006-07. During 2007-08 about 6588 beneficiaries are being provided with aids and appliances.

Scholarship to Students and Disability: Government is giving Scholarships to handicaps who studies in normal schools from Primary to University and also those who are engaged in technical and vocational education. 6,808 students were the beneficiaries' students during 2006-07 as against 6,092 students during 2005-06. During 2007-08 there have been no changes in the number of beneficiaries under this scheme with budget provision of Rs. 150.76 lakh. Under this scheme during 2008-09 8732 physically challenged students have been benefitted.

Training Centres for Teachers of Handicapped: For training teacher's one Training centre which has a capacity of 20 (twenty) teachers for the blind has been set up in amalgamation with the National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun. In the same way 2 (two) other training centre's i.e. Training Centre for Teachers of the Mentally Retarded (TCTMR) and Training Centre for the Teachers of the Deaf (TCTD) with 20 (twenty) each capacity has been set up in amalgamation with National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad and National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (NIHH), Mumbai respectively on 2:3 ratio. In this way on

a yearly basis 60 (sixty) Teachers get trained in the State as Special Educators for the Handicaps. To the Government Rs.3.60 lac has been spent during the year 2006-07 for these 3 (three) training centre's. And Rs. 4.70 lakh has been provided by the state government for training of teachers of blind and disabled during 2008-09.

Loan Assistance Scheme under NHFDC: The National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides loan through the concerned State Government agencies to disabled/ physically challenged persons for self-employment such persons with 40% disability or above in the age group of 18-55 years and having annual income not exceeding Rs.1.0 lac in Urban areas and Rs.0.80 lac in Rural areas. The scheme was introduced in 1998. From the emergence of this scheme in 1998 up to the end of March, 2007 National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation provided Loan to the tune of Rs.935.73 lac for 1960 beneficiaries out of whom the Mahila Vikash Samavaya Nigam (MVSN) an authorized State Government agency had released Rs.802.23 lac for 1739 disabled persons (GOO, Economic Survey, 2007-08, p.15/28 & GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.288).

Social Security Schemes

National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAP): It is a Central Sponsored Scheme. It is a part of the National Social Assistance. It has been implemented in the State since 1995. The main aim of this programme is to provide Social Security to the Poor and the destitute. The programme has been renamed as the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension (IGNOAP). It targets the old persons below the poverty line with 65 years of age or above. Under this programme each beneficiary gets Rs.75/- per month from the Central Government and Rs.25/- per month from the State Government. The Pension has been increased to Rs.200/- and this came to be affected from 1st April, 2006. As per the Government report particularly from the Economic Survey 2009-10 it is found that about 6,43,400 old persons were beneficiaries under this scheme and they received a monthly pension of Rs.200/-.

National Family Benefit Scheme: National Family Benefit Scheme is a second part of NSAP. It has been implemented in the State since 1995. The Government has

provided Rs. 10,000/- to a BPL Family under this programme. During 2008-09 about 33,384 persons are the beneficiaries under this scheme (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.288). A newspaper report reveals that the performance of the programme (NFBS) is very poor. It has been noticed that many of the villagers are not aware of it. During the period 2001-2009 it is seen that just 0.2 per cent families had availed the benefits under the scheme as per the Centre for Environment and Food Security (CEFS) report. The report also claims that not a single household in Balangir, Kalahandi, Gajapati and Sundargarh districts has got benefitted during 2001-2009 while one household each in Nuapada, Gangam and Keonjhar districts have benefitted (Express News Service, 9th April, 2011).

Madhu Babu Pension Yojana: The State Government has launched Madhu Babu Pension Yojana in 2008. It came into being by integrating two pension schemes, namely 'Old Age Pension Rules, 1989' and 'Disability Pension Rule, 1985'. As per Government reports the total beneficiaries under this scheme were 12.08 lac during the year 2008-09.

To rehabilitate impoverished old Men and Women the State Government has also taken initiatives by constructing Old Age Homes, Short Stay Homes and Day Care Centre's through NGOs. In the State there were 47 (forty-seven) Old Age Homes, 36 (thirty-six) Short Stay Homes and 70 (seventy) Day Care Centre's during the year 2006-07. The seat capability of each Old Age Homes, Short Stay Homes and Day Care Centre's was 25, 30 and 50 persons respectively (GOO, Economic Survey, 2007-08, p.15/29).

Women Development and Welfare: In the State of Odisha Women face several kinds of difficulties as well as discriminations, as such, illiteracy, poverty, obscurantism and exploitation. There are intense gender inequalities between men and women in the field of literacy, access to health services and other human Development indicators. If we notice the District-wise sex ratio trend in all age groups of population vis-a-vis 0-6 year's age group population in 2001, it is found that there is a wide gap in the female population. The female population for all age groups is 972 per 1000 males and it was reduced to 950 females per 1000 males in the 0-6 year's age group of

population (Orissa Human Development Report, 2004–p.133). The worse situation in this field that has faced the developed Coastal Districts such as Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Garjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jaipur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagarh and Puri. This is caused due to a large number of sex determination tests through Ultrasound and amniocentesis techniques which leads to female infanticides in large numbers during the early stages of pregnancy (GOO, Orissa Human Development Report, 2004, p.134).

If we turn to the literacy rate in Odisha we find that there is also gender disparity. Out of the total population of Odisha as per the 2001 census it is 36.71 million, the literate persons are 20,053,78 (54.63%). The literacy rates for male and females are 12,118,256 (33.01% of total population) and 7,935,529 (21.62% of total population) respectively. The Literacy rate is the highest in Khurda district, whereas it is the lowest in Malkangiri district. The Male and Female literacy rate is highest in Balasore district, it is 91.75% and in Khurda district respectively, it is 71.06%. And the male and female literacy rate is lowest in Malkangiri district, it is 41.27% and in Nabarangpur, it is 21.02%. In most of the Tribal districts such as Balangir, Boudh, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Rayagada etc. the female literacy rate is very low. So it is seen that the gender disparity in terms of literacy still persists.

Women are not only differentiated from men on the education front but also in terms of their health rights and nutrition's food intake. NFHS –2: Survey reveals that about half of the women population (48%) are badly affected from nutritional deficiencies with body mass index (BMI) less than 18.5. And this deficiency is more prevalent in younger women, illiterate women and women belonging to the SC and ST communities. In the same way the existence of anemia is very high among women in the 15-49 years of age Group and in children below 3 (three) years of age. For this reason they are weaker than male persons.

The numbers of beds are not available for female patients in the Public Health institutions (including Medical College & Hospitals). Apart from these, it is found that the NFHS - 1 & 2 reveals that the presence of malnutrition is very high among male and female children in Odisha. From the NFHS – 2, it is found that the female children are

more malnourished than the male counterparts in terms of weight for age and weight of height indicators (GOO, Human Development Report, 2004, p.137).

From the year 2001 census, it is seen that there were more female workers (33.47%) in rural areas than the urban areas (15.45%). It is also found that about 95% female workers were from the rural areas. In the beginning of the twenty-first century we find that there are wide gender disparities in terms of literacy, access to health, economic opportunities

Women's Employment in Agriculture and Allied Activities: Most of the women actively participate in the agricultural sector. They are engaged in farm operations like – sowing, transplanting, weeding, hoeing and harvesting etc. But the male workers are engaged in ploughing operations. But there are differences of wages among the male and female workers for the same type of jobs. As a result of which the numbers of female agricultural workers have decreased. The total women's workforce has increased from 42.75% in 1981 to 47.07% in 1991 but it declined to 21.43% in 2001 (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.288-89).

Employment of women in the organized Sector: In the organized sector the percentage of women employees has increased from 6.7% in 1970 to 16% in 2008. In the public sector the proportion of women has increased from 4.1% in 1972 to 17.2% in 2008 whereas in the Private sector it has decreased from 18.7% to 9.1%.

Government Policies and Programmes for Prevention of Dowry: The dowry system is a big curse of the Indian Society. It exists in every part of India. Though the Government has implemented certain anti-dowry laws, these have not produced the desired results. The Dowry system has been banned through the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 but still it is prevalent. There are 3 (three) types of dowry related violence such as dowry suicide, dowry homicide and dowry torture. There were 9691 dowry related violence registered between 1990 and 2000 in Odisha. To wipe out this dowry related violence the State Government enacted the Dowry Prohibition Act in 1991. State Government employees who are involved in Dowry offences will be punished with disciplinary action, Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been appointed by the State Government as the Dowry Prohibition officers to take action against dowry

offenders. At the district level to monitor the problems of sexual harassment of women in the work place a committee with a Senior Lady Officer as Chairperson has been established. As per Government reports the State Government has also provided financial assistance to the NGOs to create awareness among women through organizing dowry less marriages, anti-dowry campaigns, seminars, workshops, street theatres and so on. In spite of these, the problem remains the same and it still exists.

State Commission for Women It was formed in 1993 to settle family controversies/ disputes and problems of women. The State Commission for women is a statutory body. It also observes the situation of women in prisons. The Commission had also looked after the complaints of sexual harassment and trafficking in women. From the Economic Survey, 2009-10, it is revealed that during 2008-09, it got 3,211 complaints out of these 129 cases were on Dowry deaths, 784 cases included in dowry tortures, 82 cases of rapes, 92 cases of Kidnapping and 45 suicide cases. There are also other cases like non-dowry which was also included in complaints.

Orissa State Social Welfare Advisory Board (OSSWAB): The Board was established in 1954. The Central and State Government's has provided grants for various welfare programmes. These programmes were or are as follows:

Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche for Children of the working and ailing Mothers: Financial assistance is provided to the registered voluntary organizations for the construction of crèches for children of working and ailing Mothers concerning to lower income groups. There are 25 children in the age group of 0-6 years in each unit. The organization has provided lot of facilities to the children for such as health check-ups, supplementary nutrition, immunization and sleeping facilities. About 358 Voluntary organizations (Rural – 275; Urban – 83) with 558 units have benefitted from this programme during 2008-09.

Condensed course of Education for Adult women: The main objective of this course is to facilitate Social Welfare and Economic empowerment of women aged 15 and above by means of education and skills Development. To make able the women in the Primary, middle, Secondary and Higher Secondary Examinations women are given 2 (two) years non-residential education. And who have failed in Secondary and

equivalent examination, a non-residential course is also necessary for those people. The Government claimed that 20 (twenty) institutions including 11 (eleven) in rural areas benefited under this scheme covering 500 beneficiaries during the year 2008-09(GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.290).

Awareness Programme: The Government has taken steps to make the women aware through sharing of their ideas, conferences and in different ways. 120 institutions including 74 in rural areas are the beneficiaries of the scheme during 2008-09.

Family Counselling Centres: Women who are exploited both physically and mentally are being provided preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. These centres's make the children conscious about the prevailing laws relating to atrocities. They are being provided referral services such as free legal aid, police assistance, short stay homes, medical treatment and vocational training. In the rural areas there were 9 counselling centers and the total number of counselling centers were 36 (thirty-six) during the year 2008-09. And it has been observed that Rs. 6.90 lakh has been spent/dispensed to the 1257 beneficiaries.

Working Women's Hostels: Government has also provided hostels for working women through NGOs. These working women have taken one-year training for employment. The hostels are made for the Girl students studying in Post-School professional courses for 5 (five) years. In the State there are 22 (twenty-two) Hostels for working women where the number of seat capacity are 1351. From the economic survey 2009-10 it reveals that 822 women still remains in these Hostels during this period.

Short Stay Homes: Institutional Services were being provided by short stay homes in different matters like counselling of women, medical treatment, development of relationship among women arising out of family disturbances, emotional disturbances and normal danger. In the urban areas there are 33 (thirty-three) short stay homes among 37 (thirty-seven) homes were working in Odisha during the year 2008-09 and the amount released /dispensed for 1110 beneficiaries are Rs.98.63 lac(GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.290).

Rehabilitation of Women in Distress: To make destitute women self-dependent the Government has taken steps by providing training and support. The women in this category include young widows, unmarried mothers' victims of kidnapping etc. The NGOs are operating this scheme and financial assistance is given by the State Government. During the year 2008-09, Rs.3.10 lac was provided for the operation of the scheme (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.290).

Swadhar: It is a central scheme and it has been operating in the State since 2001-02. The state government implements it. It provides a lot of services to women in their miserable condition such as when destitute widows are not accepted by their families, women prisoners released from Jail and nobody support her, and for those women who have lost their families during natural disasters and without any social and economic support. Through this scheme the Government has provided food, cloth, shelter, healthcare counselling, legal support, social and economic rehabilitation through education, awareness generation and behavioural training. The scheme covers 1575 beneficiaries. In the State there are 30 (thirty) Swadhar homes managed by NGOs (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.291).

Mahila Vikas Samabaya Nigam (MVSAN): The scheme is designed for the development, welfare and empowerment of women. It is a Women's Development Corporation under W & CD Department and was constituted as the nodal agency. MVSAN has a close connection with ORMAS (Orissa Rural Development & Marketing Society) which is an agency of Panchayat Raj Department. The ORMAS has extended the spaciousness of marketing the products of WSHGs (Women Self-Help Groups) through Palishree Mella and 'SISIR SARAS'. Mahila Vikash Samavaya Nigam provides funds to the handicapped under the loan assistance scheme of the National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation.

Mission Shakti: Mission Shakti is made for empowerment of women in different field. It has come into being in 2001. Its aim is to organize 2.0 lac Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) covering all revenue villages of the State. It also states that empowerment of women through self-help groups is very necessary for the effectiveness of Mission Shakti. It is an umbrella organization. In different field of

women empowerment such as Banks, NGOs, MFIs and other institutions, Mission Shakti provides support to different stake holders. It has increased their self-confidence through providing opportunities in their self-employment.

Table: 5.1

Status of Women Self Help Groups in Odisha in the year 2008-09:		
i)	No. of WSHGS formed;	3,72,748
ii)	No. of Members;	44,72,926
iii)	Credit advances;	Rs. 1,294.44 crores
iv)	Amount of savings;	Rs.239.93 crore
v)	No. of WSHGS credit linked;	4,13,656
vi)	Federation formed;	7,593
vii)	No. of SHGS to repeat finance;	67,659
viii)	Amount of repeat finance;	Rs.460.44 crore

(Source: GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10; p.291)

- MDM programme is conducted by WSHGs in 39,034 of 60,008 Schools;
- 7,280 WSHGs are involved as PDS agents for retailing and sub-whole selling of Kerosene;
- 2137 numbers of WSHGs are engaged in LPG Gas distribution through the ‘Shakti Gaon’ Programme;
- The role of 627 Nos. of SHGs is indispensable in the successful implementation of total sanitation campaign;
- 2011 Nos. of WSHGs through HLL are operating as ‘Shakti Dealers’ under the scheme of ‘Shakti Project’;

96,661 Women Self Help Groups have been formed with 12.42 lac members by September, 2003 under this scheme/ programme. There are 300 Women Self-Help Groups per lac population that have been formed for the 10 (ten) newly formed

Districts. Among these 7 (seven) are in the Southern Region. In the Balangir, Koraput, Malkangiri there are 230 Women Self-Help Groups per lac population (GOO, HDR 2004, Orissa,p.150).

There is another special programme for the empowerment of women which has been launched by the State Government and that is 'Swayam Siddha'. It covers 36 Blocks of the KBK (Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput) Districts and Boudh District. The objectives of this programme are capacity Building of women SHGs involved in different income generating activities. It has created confidence and awareness among the members of SHGs regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education, sanitation and hygiene, legal rights, economic upliftment and other social economic and political issues etc. The programme has been extended to 31.03.2007, Government of India has sanctioned Rs.4.16 crore for the scheme (GOO, Report on Activities of W & CD Department for 2008-09, W & CD Department).

Kishori Shakti Yojona: It is a Central scheme and it is implemented through the state's ICDS infrastructure. It targets the 11-18 years old adolescent girls and it emphasizes their needs of self-development, nutrition, health, literacy, numerical and vocational skills. To implement the scheme Balika Mandal are established at Anganwadi level. During the year 2006-07 onwards under the Kishori Shakti Yojona 22,16,794 adolescent girls are covered in all 326 ICDS projects. They are being provided with iron and de-worming tablets.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: The total population of SC & ST is about 38.66% of the total population of the states. The total Tribal community in India is 635 out of which 62 are in Odisha and 13 are from Primitive Tribal Group (PTG). The Government of the State carries out many programmes for the welfare and Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities.

To the Government the ideology, ethos and cultural heritage of tribal communities are very amusing and differed from the others and are wide-ranging. They are engaged in food gathering and hunting, agriculture and horticulture. There are so many Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) which are; Banda, Chuktia, Bhunjia, Dongaria, Khandia, Lodha, Mankadia, Pandi, Bhuyan and Souras etc. They are regarded

as a special category for their distinct socio, cultural and occupational practices. The Primitive Tribal Groups are different from other tribal communities. This is due to their pre-agricultural economy, low levels and literacy, isolated habitations and other characteristics.

In Odisha, the Scheduled Tribes population is very much higher than the Scheduled Castes population. The population has increased from about 42.24 lakh in 1961 to 81.45 lakh in 2001. In the rural areas the percentage of Scheduled Tribes are higher, it is 94.5% as against 91.7% in India. In the 9 (nine) districts of Odisha, such as Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Sundargarh, Koraput and Keonjhar, the Scheduled Tribes population live in a large number. In these districts the Scheduled Tribes population constitutes about $\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the State. There are 5 (five) other districts where we find the existence of Scheduled Tribes population. These are – Nuapada, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Kalahandi etc. In these 14 (fourteen) districts the total Scheduled Tribes population of Odisha constitute about 80.02%. The maximum Scheduled Tribes population is in Mayurbhanj whereas the proportion of Scheduled Tribes population in the total population is highest in Malkangiri district (57.43%). The Scheduled Tribes populations as per the Economic Survey of 2009-10, continuously search for better livelihood opportunities.

Status of Scheduled Castes: In 1961 the Scheduled Castes population in Odisha was 33.11 lakh and it increased to 60.82 lakh in 2001. Most of the Scheduled Castes live in the rural areas. In the State the number of Scheduled Castes communities are 93. There are some districts where the Scheduled Castes population is higher i.e. Ganjam, Cuttack, Balasore and Jajpur. In the Sonapur district the proportion of Scheduled Castes population to the total district population is the highest.

Literacy: The Literacy rate in Odisha is better in the Scheduled Castes communities than the Scheduled Tribes. The percentage of literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribes during the year 2001 was 37.37% whereas the literacy rate among the Scheduled Castes during 2001 was 35.53. In Scheduled Tribes literacy rates, there are wide inter-district variations. The performance of the Scheduled Tribes community has been better in the northern districts than the southern districts. It is also seen that in 2001

the literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes women is very low than the Scheduled Castes women. It was 23.37% and 40.33% respectively.

Government Projects and Programmes: The main objective of the development policies adopted by the Government of India and the State Government is for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes communities. There are several programmes that have taken by the Government of India and the State Government for the improvement of the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes communities.

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP): Tribal Sub-Plan or scheduled area is near about 44.70% of Odisha. Tribal Sub-Plan extends over 118 Blocks in 12 (twelve) districts and covers 55.46 lakh Scheduled Tribes population. 21 (twenty-one) Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA) carries out different Tribal Welfare Programme in Tribal Sub-Plan areas. Tribal Sub-Plan approach considers the all-round development of tribal areas. The main aim is to bring forward the area of at par with the rest of the State and increase the amount of welfare of Scheduled Tribes. The main targets of Tribal Sub-Plan approach are on employment, income generating activities and the incidental infrastructure development(GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.294)

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP): The Government of India has provided Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan for promoting income generating activities and establishing infrastructure to boost tribal households. During the 10th Plan period Rs.347.62 crore was received and utilized under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan Rs.102.91 crore was discharged to the executing agencies during the year 2008-09.

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA): Integrated Tribal Development Agencies was established in the mid 1970's. Plan formulation, programme implementation and operationalization of different development programmes in Tribal Sub-Plan areas were the main objectives for its formulation. As per Government source Rs.74.20 crore was distributed or disbursed as Special Central Assistance to Integrated Tribal Development Agencies during 2008-09 and 837

projects were fulfilled covering 56,630 families (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.294).

Grants under Article-275 (1) of the Constitution of India: Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India states that the annual grants are provided by the Ministry of Tribal affairs to states for the welfare of STs. Tribal Sub-Plan areas are included in this category. Annually Odisha has been receiving Rs.35-40 crore. There are various projects which are being implemented under the programme such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) from Classes –VI to XII, roads, bridges, minor irrigation projects, hostel Buildings, educational complexes, drinking water facilities and electrification of Tribal Busty's etc. During 2008-09 – Rs.29.95 crore was released to complete 453 projects under Article 275(1) (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.295).

Modified Area Development Approach (MADA): The objective of this programme is to develop the condition of Tribal populations who are residing outside Tribal Sub-Plan. The area where the population is 10,000 or more or at least constitute 50% Tribal's are included in this programme. In 47 (forty-seven) Blocks of 17 (seventeen) districts there are 46 (forty-six) Modified Area Development Approach pockets with 568 lakh populations in which this plan is in operation in the state. These pockets have implemented individual family-oriented income generating schemes for Scheduled Tribes communities and critical infrastructure development programmes. To Government sources Rs.7.00 crore was approved and spent under this programme out of Special Central Assistance during 2008-09. About 4,889 Scheduled Tribes households have benefited from this programme (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, P.295).

Clusters: During the 7th Plan the Clusters was established. The objective of this approach is to develop the situation of tribal people in smaller areas. Clusters are recognized by the areas with at least 5,000 populations and 50% tribal concentration. In the 13 (thirteen) blocks there are 14 (fourteen) clusters in 10 (ten) districts with 62,021 tribal population. Like Modified Area Development Approach pockets the arrangements in the 14 (fourteen) cluster are the same. For the implementation of this scheme Rs. 70 lakh has been released and expended during 2008-09 and it has

benefitted 593 ST families. In addition to that 21 projects have been completed during this year (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.295)

Micro Projects: There are 17 (seventeen) micro projects which aim at holistic development of 13 (thirteen) Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) in the State. The aim of the PTGs is the holistic development of the groups and it aims at improving the infrastructure and by providing certain facilities so that poverty is eliminated, increase literacy level, improve health status and the quality of life and help in the preservation of their age-old culture. It has re-assessed the programme for betterment of Primitive Tribal Groups during the 11th Plan period (2007-12) and evolved conservation-cum-development (CCD) Plan. It always tries to develop the condition of Primitive Tribal Groups. From the Economic Survey we come to know that Rs.22.43 crore has been delivered for this programme by the Government of India. During 2008-09; Rs.2 crore was disbursed on 83 (eighty-three) projects for 2,096 Scheduled Tribes families (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.296).

Dispersed Tribal Development Programme: The 27% Tribal population is scattered all over the state and also outside the concentrated areas. It is being affected for this Tribal population. There are some salient aspects of this programme which are as follows:

- i) To provide margin money for various Bankable income generating schemes under the margin money loan programme;
- ii) To introduce community minor irrigation projects such as LIPs, WHS and the like;
- iii) To organize training programme for promoting self-employment and wage employment and
- iv) To include Scheduled Tribes households as members of co-operatives;

During 2008-09, the Government of India released Rs.11.80 crore Special Central Assistance and it covered 9,748 families (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.296).

JanashreeBimaYojona: JanashreeBimaYojona of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Ltd., was launched in 2004-05. It is a central sector scheme. It covers the

insurance of Primitive Tribal Group families and Government of India has provided 100% grant-in-aid in this field. By the end of 2007-08, about 18,722 Primitive Tribal Group families were covered under JBY.

Special Plan for KBK Districts: The Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RLTAP) for KBK districts introduced in 1988-99 to increase general and female literacy among Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes through scholarships, hostel accommodation and other facilities. In the 2009-10 economic survey we find some achievements made under Revised Long-Term Action Plan for KBK districts.

- i) 440 seated Scheduled Tribes Girls hostels with all basic amenities produced in KBK districts between 1998-99 and 2001-2002;
- ii) Rs.15.83 crore was utilized for the restoration of 471 Primary School hostels between 2002-03 and 2007-08;
- iii) During 2007-08 8 (eight) High Schools have been improved to Higher Secondary Schools and Rs.4.80 crore has been disbursed for infrastructure development in these Schools.
- iv) Between 2005-06 to 2007-08, the state government has constructed 246 hostels for the both ST/SC boys and girls with an expenditure of 32.10 crore (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.297).

Medical and Healthcare for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes: The Government of Odisha has emphasized on Health care services in remote Tribal areas. There are 3 (three) tier health service system which consists of one sub-centre for every 3,000 population, one PHC/ AHC for every 20,000 population and one CHC for every 80,000 to 1,20,000 population. As per the claim of the Government there are 726 Medical Institutions that are working in the Tribal areas of the state with 5,705 Hospital beds (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.297).

Education Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: Education is an important tool for the development of every children. To increase the importance of education among Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes children, the

Government has taken a number of initiatives like free education, scholarship facility, Boarding facility and free distribution of Text Books etc. Under the administrative control of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development Department there are 1,585 Schools and 3,598 Hostels which functioned in the State during 2008-09(GOO, Economic Survey,2009-10, p.297). There are number of students enrolled in the Schools. In these schools, lots of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students appeared at the annual HSC Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha, of them, students passed the examination. 23,534 Scheduled Castes and 24,688 Scheduled Tribes students emerged at the Higher Secondary Examination administered by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Odisha during 2008-09. Of them, 15,126 (64.27%) Scheduled Castes and 14,819 (60.02%) Scheduled Tribes students have approved the examination (GOO,Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.297).

Up-gradation of Primary Schools under SSA: In the State of Odisha there are very less number of upper Primary Schools. For this reason, the places where upper Primary Schools are not available within 3 kilometers have been up-graded into upper Primary Schools (up to Class – VIII) from the academic year 2008-09 (GOO, Economic Survey,2009-10, p.297).

New Residential Girls' High School/ Educational Complexes: In the Tribal areas where there were no school for Girls, the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development Department has established 52 (fifty-two) new Residential Girls' Schools from Classes VI to X in 52 (fifty-two) Tribal blocks of 11 (eleven) district during 2008-09. The capacity of each school is 250 Girls Students. There are 19 (nineteen) Educational Complexes that have been launched in Micro project areas for providing higher education to the children (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.297).

Bicycle for Scheduled Tribes Girls: During 2008-09, Rs.121.78 lakh has been discharged to supply/ afford bicycles to 5,492 Scheduled Tribes Girls in Integrated Tribal Development Agency areas of the State (GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.298).

Scholarships: The state government provides scholarship to the SC & ST students for the encouragement of students to engage in education. It increases student's attention in their studies. In ST & SC Development Department Schools, the SC & ST boarders studying in classes I to X and in the school and Mass Education Department the boarders in classes VI to X get scholarship at the prescribed rate. As per Government reports Rs. 126.75 crore was delivered to 5,66,172 ST students and Rs. 22.40 crore for 3,92,261 SC students and exploited towards stipend during 2008-09(GOO, Economic Survey, 2009-10, p.298). And the government also provides post-matric scholarships at different rates for different courses.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes for SCs and STs: In Odisha the proportion of STs and SCs people below the poverty line (BPL) is very much higher than any other communities. Discriminations and disadvantages are also seen towards the STs and SCs and there is an effort to remove poverty and unemployment among ST and SC communities. During 2008-09 a large number of SC and ST families has been benefited from different anti-poverty programmes.

Orissa SC and ST Development Finance Corporation (OSFDC): It was introduced in 1979-80. Its main objective is to implement various economic development programmes for the betterment of SCs, STs, Scavengers and minorities in the state.OSFDC funded Rs. 44.52 crore and 39,438 families benefitted from this scheme. During 2009-10 it has organized an Action Plan to give financial support amounting to Rs. 52.40 crore for 44,628 beneficiaries. The SCA (Special Central Assistance) is applied for the implementation of Dispersed Tribal Development Programme (DTDP) through OSFDC.A SCA is also used for the tribal children under TSP. The Special Central Assistance (SCA) funds are passed on to the ITDAs, Micro Projects and MADA/ Cluster Blocks for implementation of Income Generation Schemes and infrastructure Development Schemes (IDS) in the ratio of 70:30.

Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP): OTELP came into being in the state of Odisha since 2004-05 in place of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which was assisted by the Orissa Tribal Development Programme (OTDP) in Kasipur block. OTELP receives monetary help from the

Department for International Development (DFID), IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP). The objectives of this programme are to improve the livelihood and food security of poor tribal households. This can be ensured by promoting proper use of natural resources which belongs to the tribals.

From the above discussion it can be said that the BJD led governments has tried to improve the conditions of all sections of the society such as children, women, old and disabled, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes through various schemes. It has been observed that during the period of 2000 to 2009 the BJD government under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik has taken different initiatives for the children, women, old and disabled, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It has also been found that the children and women have been immunized from various diseases, women has been empowered in different fields through Mission Shakti, number of old age homes, short stay homes and day care centres which has been established for the destitute women and old men through Madhubabu Pension Yojana, nutritional status of the children has increased through Mid-Day Meal programme, the gender disparity in terms of literacy has improved. In spite of these we find that Odisha still now is one of the backward states among other states. We cannot deny that the prevalence of anaemia and malnutrition are very high among women and children, the educational status among SC & ST is still poor. Therefore there are still many impediments that require to be traversed to meet the development goals of the downtrodden sections of the population especially for the improvement of the SCs, STs, women, old and disabled.