

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *175
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

ADOLESCENT GIRLS' WELFARE IN ODISHA

*175. SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of adolescent girls covered under welfare schemes like SABLA or Kishori Shakti Yojna (KSY) in Odisha;
- (b) the steps taken to promote education, health, and skill development among adolescent girls in the State;
- (c) whether Government has introduced new initiative to reduce school dropout rates among adolescent girls in Odisha; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 175 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024 RAISED BY
SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY REGARDING “ADOLESCENT GIRLS’
WELFARE IN ODISHA”**

(a) to (d) Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) for adolescent girls aged 14-18 years in Aspirational Districts of all States and all districts of North-East region under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0).

The scope of earlier schemes i.e Kishori Shakti Yojana, SABLA etc was revised and Scheme for Adolescent Girls came into operation which was further subsumed under umbrella Mission Poshan 2.0.

The Scheme aims at providing nutritional support to Adolescent Girls (AGs) [14-18 years] for improving their health and nutritional status under the nutrition component and providing them IFA supplementation, Health check-up and Referral Service, Nutrition & Health Education and Skilling etc. under non-nutrition component of the Scheme.

Under the nutrition component, supplementary nutrition containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients is provided to adolescent girls in the age group of 14-18 years for 300 days in a year to beat the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition by adopting a life cycle approach. The number of adolescent girls covered under SAG in State of Odisha is 2,63,790 as on November, 2024.

Fortified rice is being supplied to AWCs to meet the requirement of micro-nutrients and to control anemia among women and children. Greater emphasis is being laid on the use of millets for preparation of Hot Cooked Meal at least once a week and Take Home ration at Anganwadi centers.

Under the Mission Poshan 2.0, one of the major activities undertaken is Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to a Jan Andolan to educate people on nutritional aspects. States and UTs are conducting and reporting regular sensitisation activities under community engagement programmes during Poshan Maahs and Poshan Pakhwadas celebrated in the months of September and March-April respectively. Community Based Events (CBEs) have served as a significant strategy in changing nutritional practices and all Anganwadi workers are required to conduct two Community Based Events every month.

In order to promote health of adolescent girls, Ministry of Health informed that, the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) is being implemented since 2014 supported through the National Health Mission (NHM) funds. Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics are established across all districts where the adolescent boys and girls are provided counselling services on adolescent health issues. Peer Education Programme is implemented in 6 districts of the State. Peer Educators form groups of 15-20 boys and girls in the community and conduct weekly participatory sessions on adolescent health. Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) programme is implemented across the State for prevention of iron and folic acid deficiency anemia. WIFS covers adolescents in Government and Government aided schools and out of school adolescent girls through Anganwadi Centres.

Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene is implemented to promote menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years to increase awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, access to and use of sanitary napkins by adolescent girls and safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environment friendly manner.

States also implement the School Health & Wellness Programme (SH&WP) a joint initiative of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Education. Under SHWP two teachers from schools are trained as 'Health and Wellness Ambassadors (HWAs)' on eleven (11) thematic areas.; these trained HWAs transact age appropriate, activity-based classroom sessions.

The Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) is implementing the scheme of Samagra Shiksha, effective from 2018-19, for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. In order to ensure greater participation of girls in school education, under Samagra Shiksha, various interventions have been targeted, which include opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, stipend to Children with Special Need (CWSN) girls from class I to class XII, separate toilets for girls, teacher's sensitization programmes to promote girls' participation in school education, gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including text books.

In addition, to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education and ensure access and quality education to girls, under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL).

The KGBVs are set up in Educationally Backward Blocks. The objective behind establishing KGBVs is to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools and to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education. Target Group for KGBVs is the Girls in the age group of 10-18 years aspiring to study in classes VI to XII belonging to SC, ST, OBC, Minority communities and BPL families. In Odisha, a total of 355 KGBVs have been sanctioned out of which 311 KGBVs are functional with total enrolment of 36260 girls.
