

Status of Women Centric Schemes and their Empowerment in Nagaland: A Descriptive Study

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ABSTRACT

Nagaland is a state where 47.62% of the total population are women. Naga women are excluded from the decision-making process, and hardly a few women have been empowered to involve income-generating activities individual income. Many of them are also affected by all sorts of violence in society, which are unseen in most situations. Though there are many schemes for women where they can report any violence or seek help but are either unaware or have little knowledge about it. Women-centric schemes like OSC and Women Helpline 181 support and give guidance to those women affected by violence both in public and private places. The schemes encourage the women to have their own identities and participation in different activities. The study highlights the present status of women and cases reported under OSC and women helpline 181 and the problems involved while implementing the scheme.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Women helpline 181 provides 24 hour immediate and emergency response to women affected by any kind of violence in both private and public places.
- OSC provides support and assistance to those women affected by any kind of violence.
- 1109 cases were reported in Nagaland under women helpline 181.
- 328 cases were reported under OSC in Nagaland.

Keywords: One Stop Centre, Women helpline 181, Women Empowerment, women centric schemes, State Resource center for women (SRCW)

Women empowerment can be defined as promoting women's sense of self-worth and their ability to others. It is closely aligned with female empowerment – a fundamental human right that's also a key to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous world. Women should be put into the country's development agenda to achieve its desired goal. They should also be made development partners, and development ultimately becomes a process of empowerment. This ensures their full participation in every aspect of social and national development.

Women's empowerment would enlarge individual women's choices and productivity leveled the collective contribution of women groups. Gender inequality and discrimination are still faced in India. In Western societies, women have got equal rights and status with men in all walks of life. The paradoxical situation has

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such that she was sometimes concerned as Goddess and merely as a slave.

The status of women in Nagaland is much better than the women in mainland India. In Naga society, women are equal partners and bread earners. The women in Naga society have accomplished literacy, health care, sex ratio, and entrepreneur development. Women-specific problems will also disappear gradually only if the economic independence of our women is ensured. Though the Naga women have accomplished so much, it still lacks in many other fields like decision making, political intervention, property inheritance, etc. Nagaland Government has introduced different schemes for the upliftment of women, such as *Mahila Shakti Kendra*, *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, *Sakhi*, OSC, 181 women helpline, etc. The study highlights the present status of women and their involvement in centric schemes like the Women helpline and OSC through a descriptive study in Nagaland.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- ❖ Dr. Rashmi Rani Agnihotri H.R & Dr. Malipatil, K.S (2017), in their article "A study on women empowerment schemes in India" studied the importance of women empowerment in India and the different schemes initiated by the government of India towards women empowerment.
- ❖ Nisha Pandey (2019) in her article "Impact analysis of welfare schemes of women's empowerment: concerning RMK, STEP, AND E-HAAT," examines the perspective of women who are getting benefitted through various government schemes implemented in assistance with non-governmental organizations.
- ❖ Longkumer, M. & Jha, K.K. (2014), in their article, "women empowerment through SGH's - characteristics and levels," conducted their study in Medziphema rural development block under Dimapur district of Nagaland. The study revealed characteristic features of women's empowerment which was evident in an increase in income level, improvement in skills and knowledge, and increased capacity to meet daily household expenses.

Statement of the Problem

Women empowerment is a fundamental approach to transforming power relations for women. Though women are given equal rights and opportunities, we can still see that women face problems in their daily lives. Empowering women is essential to the health, social, economic, and development of families of a country. Empowering girls is also the key to economic growth, political stability, and social transformation. Women-centric schemes & programs is essential as it enables the women to be independent, make use of their potential to the fullest, participate in decision making, and safeguard themselves from any violence.

Objectives

1. To study the different women centric schemes for women empowerment in Nagaland.
2. To study the problems while implementing the women-centric schemes.

Research Methodology

The study is descriptive and based on secondary sources. The study focused on two different women-centric schemes i.e. Women's Helpline 181 and One Stop Centre/ *Sakhi* (OSC).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The National Mission for Empowerment of Women, an initiative of the Government of India, was launched on 8th March 2010. The purpose of the Mission is to empower women, who constitute 48% of the population of the country, socially and economically so that they become an integral part of the Nation Building Process. Promoting all round empowerment of women, including physical, mental, social, economic, and political development, would be the ultimate aim of the mission. To enable the National Mission to achieve its goal, State Mission Authority (SMA) has been envisaged as an Institutional mechanism set up at the State Level under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister with the Ministers of the participating departments as Members.

The State Resource Centre for Women will provide institutional support to operate the activities of the mission in the State. The State Resource Centre for Women (SCRW) works towards strengthening to promoting the empowerment of women, gender equality, and gender justice through inter sectoral convergence of schemes and programs of the government impacting women, forging synergy amongst various stakeholders and creating an enabling environment conducive to social change.

The Social Welfare Department is the nodal department in Nagaland, and it is established under the aegis of the Nagaland State Social Welfare Board. The Chief Minister heads the State Mission Authority as the chairperson, and the State Coordination Committee is headed by the Chief Secretary. At the district level, the District Task Force is set up under the chairpersonship of the Deputy Commissioner.

Women’s Helpline 181

The SRCW has been appointed as the nodal agency to implement the universalization of the Women Helpline Scheme (181) in the state. This scheme intends to provide 24-hour immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence, both in public and private spheres, by linking them to the appropriate agencies, such as – the OSC, Police, Hospital/ Ambulance, Legal Services Authority, Childline, etc. WHL also provides information on women-related schemes and programs in the State.

11	Missing	10
12	Mischief/Blackmail/ Threaten	2
13	Rescue	7
14	Child Custody	1
15	Trafficking	1
16	Kidnapping	1
17	Psychological Assistance/ Guidance/ Counseling	38
18	Physical Abuse	5
19	Information on Government Related schemes/ programme/ laws/ covid 19 related	884
Total		1109

Source: Department of Social Welfare, Nagaland.

Table 1 represents the 181 total no of cases reported in Nagaland from the year June 2016- March 2021. From the data it is observed that different types of cases were reported under 181 women’s helpline. Trafficking, sexual harassment, kidnapping, and child custody are the lowest case reported from the year 2016-2020. 884 cases were reported for seeking information regarding women-centric schemes/ programs & laws were reported, which is the highest case reported. Women affected by any kind of violence are rescued, and then guidance, counseling, and support are given.

One Stop Centre/ Sakhi (OSC)

OSC is established in 11 districts of Nagaland. The objective of OSC is to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces, under one roof and to facilitate immediate, emergency, and non-emergency access to a range of services to fight against any form of violence against women. WHL-181 is integrated with One Stop Centres.

Table 2 represents the state-wise details of OSC’s in India. A total of 116 OSC’s were approved, but only 80 are operational in North East India. A total of ₹ 18,790,379, was released in the year 2016-2017, ₹ 23,348,947 in the year 2017-2018 and ₹ 314,835,696 were released in the year 2018-2019. Nagaland has 11 operational OSC’s. In Nagaland ₹ 55, 41, 679 were released in the year 2016-2017, ₹ 80, 41, 940 in the year 2017-2018 and ₹ 4, 54, 87, 024

Table 1: 181 Nagaland case data (June 2016- March 2021)

Sl. No	Types of Cases	Total
1	Distress	7
2	Support/ Assistance	45
3	Cheating/ Fraud	6
4	Abuse/ Harassment	13
5	Domestic Violence	40
6	Cybercrime and Obscene phone calls	36
7	Sexual Harassment at work place	1
8	Physical/ Sexual Abuse	2
9	Molestation	2
10	Rape & Murder	8

Table 2: North East State wise details of approved OSC's, operational OSCs, and year wise fund (2016-2019) in India

Sl. No.	State/ UTs	Number of OSCs Approved	Number of Operational OSCs	Year Wise Fund released (In ₹)		
				2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	Arunachal Pradesh	25	13	28,41,450	53,19,517	7,82,02,084
2	Assam	33	31	75,65,800	0	7,86,95,087
3	Manipur	16	1	0	0	3,57,22,445
4	Meghalaya	11	11	28,41,450	7,75,391	1,86,39,947
5	Mizoram	8	8	0	61,40,951	2,72,64,535
6	Nagaland	11	11	55,41,679	80,41,940	4,54,87,024
7	Sikkim	4	1	0	30,71,148	39,23,225
8	Tripura	8	4	0	0	2,69,01,349
Total		116	80	18,790,379	23,348,947	314,835,696

Source: Ministry of Women & Child Development 2019.

Table 3: Reported Cases of OSC (June 2016- March 2020)

Districts & date of inception of OSC	Year	Domestic Violence	Rape	Sexual offence	Trafficking	Child sexual abuse	Missing/ Abduction / run away	Cyber crime	Abandoned/ distress women	Others	Total
Dimapur 23/06/2016	2016	5	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	12
	2017	11	1	—	1	—	8	1	2	1	25
	2018	18	2	2	20	—	7	1	12	8	70
	2019— 2020	14	1	2	2	—	20	3	21	3	66
Kohima 26/11/2016	2016	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
	2017	7	1	1	—	—	2	3	5	1	20
	2018	4	2	1	1	—	2	—	3	6	19
	2019— 2020	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	4	14
Kiphire 8/03/2019	2019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	7
Longleng 8/03/2019	2019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	7
Mokokchung 8/03/2019	2019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6
Mon 8/03/2019	2019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4
Peren 8/03/2019	2019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	7
Phek 8/03/2019	2019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	17	1	1	—	—	2	—	10	3	34
Tuensang 8/03/2019	2019	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	2020	—	1	1	—	1	2	1	3	1	10
Wokha 8/03/2019	2019	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	2	1	—	—	—	7	1	6	—	17
Zunheboto 8/03/2019	2019	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	2020	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	5
Total of 11 district		100	12	9	24	1	63	13	74	32	328

Source: Impression- Annual Report 2019-2020.

in the year 2018-2019. The funds were used in organizing awareness programs, giving shelter, counseling, and training so that they could create income.

Table 3 shows the reported case of OSC in 11 districts. OSC was first established in Dimapur in Nagaland on 23rd June 2016, followed by Kohima on 26th November 2016. The other 9 districts i.e., Kiphire, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Peren, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha, and Zunheboto were established on 8th March 2019. A total of 328 cases were reported from all the 11 districts of Nagaland. During the year 2018-2019, 18 cases of domestic violence and 20 cases of trafficking were reported from Dimapur, which are the highest case reported among the 11 districts of Nagaland. In 2019-2020, 20 cases of missing/abduction/runaway and 21 cases of abandoned/ distressed women were reported from Dimapur, which is also the highest among all the 11 districts of Nagaland. Dimapur had the highest case reported in 2018-2019, i.e., a total of 70 cases. From the 11 districts, 100 cases were reported on domestic violence, which is the highest compared with other cases reported and the lowest in child abuse. Only one case of child abuse was reported from Tuensang in 2019-2020, and it is the only case of child abuse from the 11 districts of Nagaland.

Problems

The -centric schemes have been progressing over time, but it still faces some complexity while implementing them. Some of the problems faced during the implementation of schemes in Nagaland are as follows:

1. Misuse of funds and corruption is one of the reasons why there is a problem in implementing schemes in Nagaland.
2. No transparency in the budget allocation creates a problem in implementing the schemes.
3. Various awareness programs and campaigns are organized it still fail to cover the backward areas and people living below the poverty line. There is still a lack of awareness among the backward areas.
4. Poor infrastructure is also one of the reasons why different schemes and programs cannot be

implemented in a particular village or block. It also lacks awareness about the schemes and programs because of poor infrastructure

5. Though schemes provide broader guidelines yet at the district level, planning is required for implementing the schemes taking various parameters into account. At times, backward areas are ignored, and the benefits of the schemes do not reach the required area.
6. Most schemes don't have any practical evaluation or feedback mechanism from the target group, so the scope of improvements gets closed.

Findings

1. A total of 1109 cases were reported under Women Helpline 181 from June 2016 to March 2021. It provides 24-hour immediate and emergency response to women affected by any kind of violence in both private and public places.
2. 328 cases were reported from all the 11 districts of Nagaland under One Stop Centre (OSC)/ Sakhi. OSC provides support and assistance to those women affected by any kind of violence. WHL-181 is integrated with one stop center.
3. The women-centric schemes such as Women Helpline 181 and OSC have been established in 11 districts of Nagaland i.e., Mon. Tuensang, Zunheboto, Kohima, Dimapur, Peren, Phek, Longleng, Wokha, Mokokchung and Kiphire. Many awareness programs and training were organized under different schemes in all the 11 districts of Nagaland.
4. Though the schemes are implemented in all the districts, some drawbacks are faced implementing the schemes, such as corruption, planning, poor infrastructure, etc.

CONCLUSION

The women-centric schemes have helped some women either by rescuing them from different violence or by helping them in establishing their enterprises. There are so many success stories that we get to hear from women who seek help from the women-centric schemes

i.e., OSC and WHL-181. It is also the responsibility of the government to make sure that the funds that are given for women's schemes are utilized properly and effectively. The Nodal departments of women-centric schemes should also try to reach those areas which are backward and bring awareness about the different women-centric schemes. There is adequate scope for Nagaland to grow if provided women are given an equal chance to participate in decision making and proper care and support are given to girl child.

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