

Government of Rajasthan
Department of Women and Child
Directorate of Women Empowerment

Setting up the Gender Cell

A half day exposure workshop on Gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting was held on 20th March, 2009 for senior officers of the State Governemnt. The workshop was held unde the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary. Ms. Firoza Mehrotra, IAS, Special Consultant from Planning Department, New Delhi delivered the key note address.

One of the positive outcomes of the workshop was the initiative taken by the Finance Department, i.e. to set up a committee under the chairpersonship of the ACS (WE&W) with PSF/FS (B) and Secretary, Planning Department as Members including the Secretary of Women and Child Department as a Member Secretary. This committee shall examine and review budgets of all departments from a gender perspective, suggesting measures for shaping budgets according to gender needs and requirements. The FD has expressed inclination for setting up Gender Cell in the Department of Women and Child for day to day functions, and logistical support to the proposed committee. This step will go a long way in creating appropriate environment for developing gender perspective in adopting GRB.

GRB is an important toll to ensure holistic development and empowerment of women. It would require departments to re-examine their programmes/schemes to review outreach and quantum of benefits reaching women, through re-working on priorities in accordance with outcomes.

The outcome analysis will reflect on the status of GRB in departments, could be beneficial if carried out by experts- trained in process and mechanics of budget formulation and analysis, in a smooth manner. Gender Cell at State level, therefore will be a catalyst in establishing GRB practices and performances. The State through its innovative approach can achieve twin goals- women empowerment and equitability in allocating financial resources nad overcoming gender barriers.

In view of importance of Gender Cell, it is proposed to be consituted as per following:

S.No.	Post	Number of Post Sanctioned
1	Project Coordinator	1
2	Additional Project Coordinator (Senior Accounts Officer)	1
3	Deputy Director, Statistics (Plan)	1
4	Statistical Assistant	1
5	Secretary to PC/APC (Functional both in Hindi and English, computer knowledge and experience in data entry)	3
6	Office Support	2

Reasons for Reconsideration Constitution of the Gender Cell

Point no. 94 of the budget announcement by the Chief Minister for the year 2009-10 had two directions:

- i) महिलाओं से सम्बंधित योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन के लिए जेंडर रेस्पॉन्सिव बजट बनाने का निर्णय लिया है जिसके अंतर्गत प्रत्येक विभाग के बजट का जेंडर आधारित विश्लेषण सम्भव हो सकेगा। इस हेतु एक उच्च स्तरीय कमेटी गठित की जाएगी।
- ii) इसके अतिरिक्त महिलाओं के संरक्षण विकास एवं सशक्तिकरण की दृष्टि से महिला अधिकारता विभाग में एक विशेष जेंडर सेल की स्थापना की जाएगी

All the positions for Gender Responsive Budgeting has been approved and sanctioned. However, the matter is to be re-considered with reference to point (b) of the CM's announcement as above. Only one post of Consultant has been approved. This position is to be filled in accordance with DOP circular dated 29-08-08 which provides engaging retired government officers on renumeration @ Rs. 9000 per month and below 65 years of age. These are limiting norms for selecting a suitable consultant having knowledge and experience about gender issues especially GRB. The other post of Additional Project Coordinator for the second unit is not approved. Under the circumstances unit proposed for the protection of women's right is not complete as envisaged. This will create difficulty in meeting objectives of the Hon'ble CM's announcement in regard to protection, development and empowerment of women.

Gender issues are varied and complex, needs to be addressed in entirety. GRB although is a right approach, cannot be termed as a sole mechanism for dealing with all issues pertaining to gender- specifically women. The budgetary support would be useful only when the receptivity of the people for who the provisions are made is enhanced and augmented towards women. The approach therefore, is to develop an integrated mechanism which would address GRB as well as other social and economic issues affecting women.

The Department has not focused on infrastructure of Gender Cell. There is no clerical assistance provided. The idea is that concerned officer should themselves plan, prepare documents and make presentations and maintain records.

While proposing the post of Additional Project Coordinator and Consultant with respective qualifications, Department intends to infuse new vision and approach in handling women's issues, helping them to develop gender and GRB concept. This could be done by recruiting young, energetic, and knowledgeable people from open market on contract basis. This cannot be possible under present circumstances.

Also each officer was proposed to be provided with office secretary having knowledge and experience in computer operations, development of formats, report typing in english and hindi and data entry. The Finance Department has approved only three posts of Pas with a rider of DOP circular dated 29.08.08. Although FD has approved renumeration of Rs. 10000 per head, it has allowed recruitment of retired government officials at the monthly

renumeration of Rs. 4500. Since it is very difficult to get retired government official at the age of 60 years and more with required qualifications. This arrangement will not fulfill desired objectives.

Therefore, FB may reconsider the issue and agree to create one post of Additional Project Coordinator for PPRW unit and two additional posts of office assistance/secretary, officer help on the renumeration proposed earlier, approved by FD. Recruitment of personnel to be done on contract basis, as per FD guidelines dated 09.01.07, instead of DOP guidelines dated 29.08.08. The budget and rate of renumeration is already approved by FD. No additional funds will be required.