

## CHAPTER -7

### Empowerment of Women and Development of Children

Women have been subjected to neglect and suppression since time immemorial. Society in India has generally been male dominated and the lady of the house has often been relegated to the kitchen. In such a scenario, exploitation and abuse has also been common.

Himachal Pradesh too has seen these gender based social discriminations but the extent has never been as an expression of intent to repress and deny their rights and hence there has been a difference, as compared to the rest of the country. Women in Himachal Pradesh have been primarily involved in economic activities outside their homes. They work in fields, rear animals and are also engaged in small and cottage industries. Besides, they are also holding jobs in government offices as well as in private sector. All these factors have contributed to their economic independence, freedom of movement, mobility, decision making power and social recognition. The Socio-economic status of women in Himachal Pradesh is as under:-

#### 1. Male-Female Ratio:

**7.1.1** Demographic presentation of Male- Female Ratio in Himachal Pradesh based on population census is given in the following table:-

**Table -1 : Demographic data on Male-Female Population.**

Item	Unit	1971 Census	1981 Census	1991 Census	2001 Census
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1. Population					
Total	Lakh	34.60	42.80	51.70	60.77
Male	Persons	17.67	21.70	26.17	30.88
Female	Lakh	16.93	21.10	25.53	29.89
	Persons				
	Lakh				
	Persons				
2. Decennial Growth of Population	%	23.04	23.71	20.79	+ 17.53
3. Sex Ratio	Females Per 1000 Males	958	973	976	968

**7.1.2** As is revealed from the above, Himachal Pradesh has shown an upward trend in sex-ratio during decades from 1971-91. However, in the last decade of 1991-2001, sex ratio has dropped from 976 to 968. Census figures of 2001 show a decline of 8 points in the sex-ratio which has serious socio-economic implications. This drop out in the sex-ratio is mainly attributed to the adoption of two child norms by the couples which has resulted in favouring one sex over other. Of the 12

Districts in the State, the problem of declining sex-ratio is more pronounced in 5 districts viz Solan, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una and Kangra where it is below 900. It appears to have been influenced by the culture of neighbouring states.

## 2. Education and Literacy

**7.2.1** Literacy and education is an important tool for economic growth and effective decision making which ultimately results in empowerment of the women. Quality of life and human development attainments invariably are high in the countries, which have invested heavily in education. In a country, which is in transition phase and is increasingly recognized as knowledge economy in the global market, education to women is of paramount importance. The male-female literacy data in respect of Himachal Pradesh is given in the following table:-

**Table-2**  
**Male-Female Literacy Percentage-Census (1971-2001)**

Item	Unit	1971	1981	1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Literacy Percentage					
Total	%	31.96	42.48	63.86	76.50
Male	%	43.20	53.19	75.36	85.30
Female	%	20.20	31.46	52.13	67.40

**7.2.2** As is revealed from the table given above, overall literacy percentage according to 2001 Census was 76.50%. It has recorded 44.54% increase within a period of 30 years between the period 1971 to 2001. Whereas, male literacy rate has shown an increase of 42.10%, female literacy has recorded an unprecedented increase of 47.20 %. Despite sharp increase in female literacy, it is still far below the male literacy percentage. One alarming feature of increase in literacy among women is that it has not helped Himachal Pradesh in checking the decline in sex-ratio. However, it has helped women in attaining economic empowerment.

## 3. Work Force Participation

**7.3.1** Human Development is viewed as composite of indices, namely socio-economic empowerment, health, education etc. Economic empowerment of women can be gauged by measuring their participation in the work, nature of work, role and responsibility at work place as also the remuneration received in turn thereof. Since per capita income continued to be important indicator of economic well being, but due to data constraints on per-capita income of women, it is not possible to estimate the income of women separately. The following table depicts the participation of women in the workforce on the basis of 2001 Census:-

**Table-3:**  
**Details of Work Force - 2001 Census**

Sr. No.	Item	Unit	2001 Census
1	2	3	4
1.	Population	Lakh Persons	60.78
2.	Main Workers	Lakh Persons	19.64
a)	Male	Lakh Persons	13.34
b)	Female	Lakh Persons	6.30
3.	Marginal Workers	Lakh Persons	10.29
a)	Male	Lakh Persons	3.53
b)	Female	Lakh Persons	6.76
4.	Non-Workers	Lakh Persons	30.85
a)	Male	Lakh Persons	14.01
b)	Female	Lakh Persons	16.84

**7.3.2** It reveals from the above table that among main workers, females constituted 32.8% whereas in marginal workers it accounted for 65.80%. It speaks of higher involvement of males in full time work and that of females in seasonal work. In non-workers, females account for 54.68% which indicates that the traditional trend of engaging women in non-remunerative domestic chores still has its strong hold on our society. Low literacy rate among females is the main reason for their non-participation in full time work or jobs of professional nature. It also speaks of their less freedom in choice of work.

**7. 3.3** Decadal work participation (1991-2001) data is analyzed as under:-

**Table-4**  
**Work Participation Rate by Sex, 1991-2001 (Percentage to Population)**

Item	1991 Census			2001 Census		
	Total Workers (male + female) % age to total population	% age of male workers to male population	% age of female workers to female population	Total workers (male + female) %age to total population	% age of male workers to male population	% age of female workers to female population
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Total	42.8	50.6	34.8	49.2	54.6	43.7

**7.3.4** The above table shows work participation rate by sex among total population in 1991 and 2001 Census. The work participation rate for 2001 census has been recorded as 49.2 % of total population as against 39.1% at national level. In 1991 Census, it was just 42.8%, thus showing a net increase of 6.4 points. The sex wise work participation rate of the state among males stands at 54.6% in 2001 as against 50.6% in 1991 census. Among the females, it came to 43.7% in 2001 from 34.8% in 1991 Census. Though an increase in work participation rate has been noticed for

both the sexes in 2001 census as against 1991 census, but work participation rate of females has shown a significant increase of 8.9 points in comparison to that of males which has shown an increase of 4 points only.

#### **4. Women and Health**

**7.4.1** WHO defines health as “State of complete physical, mental, social and spiritual well being and not merely the absence of diseases and infirmity”. The fundamental determination of health apart from the genetic constitution is nutrition, environment and lifestyle. The health of any rural Indian society is directly linked to its value system, cultural traditions, socio-economic setup and political organization. Each of these has a profound influence on the health of an individual or community.

**7.4.2** The links between health and economic prosperity of the society are well known. Low nutritional intake and subsequently poor health has its linkages with low levels of income. Health improvement can accelerate economic growth. Therefore, investment in health, nutrition and other areas impacting women is not a matter of choice. Himachal Pradesh compares favorably with rest of India in terms of health indicators and over the time, indicators for women have improved sharply in comparison to their male counterparts, yet if compared with better placed states like Kerala or developed nations, Himachal is quite behind. Himachal Pradesh is passing through the demographic transition and the trends in fertility given in table No. 5 below, demonstrate it well:-

**Table-5**  
**Total Fertility Rates**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	<b>India</b>
1981-83	4.0	4.5
1991-93	3.0	3.6
1997-99	2.4	3.2
2005-06	2.0	2.8
2006-07	1.9	2.7
2007-08	1.9	2.6

*Source: SRS, Registrar General, India and Deptt. Of Health & Family Welfare, HP Govt.*

**7.4.3** During the period from 1991 to 2006, Total Fertility Rate for Himachal Pradesh has declined sharply as compared to the decline in the TFR of India.

**7.4.4** Crude Birth Rate (CBR) for Himachal Pradesh has shown steady decline and is well below the national average of 25.4. According to SRS estimates for the year 2007, CBR in Himachal Pradesh stands at 17.42. The trend in birth rates is as under:-

**Table-6**  
**Birth Rates**

Year	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008
Rate	32.1	30.2	27.4	25.2	22.1	20.0	17.4	17.7

**Source: SRS Estimates and Deptt. of Health & Family Welfare, HP Govt.**

In 1980, the CBR was 32.1 and thereafter it has declined continuously. There appears to be no problem in achieving the target of 15 by the year 2020.

**7.4.5** Infant Mortality Rate for the state, according to SRS figures is 44, still there is gap in Males and Females ratio. It clearly shows disparity in terms of preference for male child. The sex-wise infant mortality rates are as under:-

**Table-7**  
**Infant Mortality Rates**

Year		1985	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008
Rate	Male	77	62	68	57	45	45	43
	Female	92	75	56	45	55	49	45

**Source: SRS Estimates, Deptt. of Health & Family Welfare, HP Govt. .**

**7.4.6** It is noteworthy that decline in female infant mortality over the years is sharper than the males. While in year 1985, female IMR stood at 92 as compared to male IMR of 77. In the early nineties, State witnessed the lower female infant mortality rate for the first time but the trend did not continue as is visible from the table given above.

**7.4.7** Life expectancy at birth for males and females is given in the table below:-

**Table-8**  
**Life Expectancy Trends**

Period		1970-75	1976-80	1981-85	1986-90	1993-97	2002-2006
Age (Years)	Female	50.9	54.9	62.8	62.8	65.2	67.3
	Male	54.8	58.1	58.5	62.6	64.6	66.5

**Source: SRS Estimates.**

**7.4.8** Life expectancy at birth for males was 54.8 as against 50.9 years for females for the period 1970-75, though genetically females are considered to be robust and are expected to live longer than their male counterparts. However, as per the SRS rates for the period 2001-05, life expectancy for females is 67.1 years as compared to 66.3 years for males which shows a healthy trend. However, the average difference in life expectancies in the developed countries between males and females is 5 years. Himachal Pradesh still has a long way to go in this direction. When compared with all India scenario, female life expectancy in Himachal Pradesh compares favorably. However, these aggregate figures tell a bit incomplete story and if, age wise life expectancy figures are analyzed, a different picture

emerges. This comparative advantage in life expectancies remains valid, till the age of 40 years, while after the age of 40, it is male who has higher probability to live longer than female. This is mainly due to treatment seeking behaviors and social or cultural inhibitions that might prevent women to seek medical help or take proper care of their nutritional needs. Whatsoever is the reason, in the older years, females have disproportionate burden. Life expectancy at different age groups/ levels of males and females is as under:-

**Table-9**  
**Life Expectancy at Different Ages**

Life Expectancy	Overall	Male	Females
Y0	65.1	64.6	65.2
Y1	68.5	68.1	68.5
Y10	60.8	60.1	61.1
Y20	51.3	50.6	51.7
Y30	42.5	42	42.7
Y40	33.7	33.5	33.7
Y50	25.2	25.1	25
Y60	18.1	18.7	18.2
Y 70+	12.2	13.9	10.1

**Source: Vital Statistics Division- Registrar General Office.**

**7.4.9.** It is clear from the table above that females maintain their comparative advantage till the age of 40, while in the abridged life tables, life expectancy at the age of 50 for males is 25.1 years as compared to females, which is 25 years. However, this gap increases, and at 70 plus, while a male may be expected to live 13.9 years more, a female is expected to live only 10.1 years more. Thereafter, data, which segregates health adjusted life years for females and males is not available. Further, at present life expectancy data is not available for individual districts, so regional disparities are difficult to assess. However, the available data strongly suggests that in terms of female health life, there is every likelihood of her to have less healthy years as compared to her male counterpart.

**7.4.10.** A recent study, carried out by PGI, Chandigarh shows that in Himachal Pradesh leading causes for premature mortality among women are easily manageable and preventable if, essential health care is provided and accessibility is improved. The major causes for premature mortality account for almost 48% of total mortality. The main cause of premature mortality among women is iron deficiency/ anaemia. The other leading causes of premature mortality among women and related premature mortality percentage are as under:-

**Table-10**  
**Leading Causes of Premature Mortality (% age) among Women**

Sr. No.	Causes	Premature Mortality (%)
1	Diarrheal Diseases	16.48
2	Lower Respiratory Infections	15.86

3	Other Maternal Conditions	6.46
4	Other Infectious Diseases	4.81
5	Pre Natal Conditions	4.8
6	Ischeamic Heart Diseases	3.37
7	Falls	3.02
8	Tuberculosis	3.01
9	Self Inflicted Injuries	2.96
10	Maternal Heamorrhage	2.95

**7.4.11. Mean Age of Marriage:** SRS data for the year 2003 shows that female age at effective marriage is 22.0 years. Despite the evidence of increase in the age of marriage, NFHS-II estimates show that almost 11% of women get married before the legal age of marriage (in 20-24 age group responses). However, Himachal Pradesh is the first State in the country to have enforced “H.P.Registartion of Marriages Act, 1996”.

**7.4.12. Contraceptive Prevalence:** NFHS-III shows that contraceptive prevalence rate in Himachal Pradesh is quite high. 97.7 % women and 97.9 % men have knowledge of any contraceptive method. However, gender bias is clearly evident as the extent of female sterilization is 93.9 % while for male it is 80.7% despite the fact that male sterilization is more convenient and safer. The higher female sterilization, as in the rest of India underscores the attitudes, socio-cultural aspects and throws light on the issues well known and related to female empowerment.

**7.4.13. Institutional Deliveries:** Population Fund of India has rated Himachal Pradesh as one of the best state in the RCH implementation, yet issues remain. Despite having very high proportion of women receiving ante natal care (87.2%), institutional deliveries lie at the abysmally low at 31.7%. The State Government is alive to this issue and has taken significant steps to improve the status.

## 5. Crimes and Security

**7.5.1** In the issues related to the security of women, Himachal Pradesh has been graded as one of the high ranking States. However, the status of crimes against women in the State is as under:-

**Table-11**  
**Crime against Women in Himachal Pradesh**

Sr. No	Head of Crime	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	Murder	34	36	28	31	29	24	23	30	36	37	27
2	Culpable Homicide	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
3	Rape	129	124	137	126	153	141	113	159	157	182	160
4	Dowry Death	3	10	6	6	8	2	3	7	3	1	2
5	Kidnap/ abduction	97	106	119	96	97	101	108	153	137	123	163
6	Molestation	284	315	347	250	282	283	274	324	295	320	348

Sr. No	Head of Crime	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
7	Abetment to commit suicide	65	84	52	50	61	61	58	69	83	82	86
8	Cruelty to women	304	326	234	221	252	228	256	343	343	284	275
9	Eve teasing	16	20	11	11	13	27	31	40	44	37	73
10	Chain snatching	1	-	-	-	5	1	2	1	4	7	8
11	Dowry (P) Act	3	9	4	5	5	1	2	4	2	4	-
12	Immoral Trafficking (P) Act	1	1	2	5	4	4	-	-	1	5	1
13	<b>Total</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1145</b>

**7.5.2** It reveals from the table that cases of crimes against women have increased during 2007 to 2010 in comparison to the previous years. This increase can be attributed to the increased awareness among women, change in social values, ethos, social reassurances being provided by the society, free registration of cases and Suvidha scheme started by the State Government through the Police Department as women are more often coming forward to report the offences/ crime taking place against them.

**7.5.3** Some incidences of missing women and children are taking place. The year-wise detail of missing women and children upto 18 years of age alongwith traced out figures is as under:-

**Table-12**  
**Detail of Missing Women and Children in Himachal Pradesh**

Year	Missing Women	Traced Out	Missing Children		Traced Out	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
2004	281	229	37	28	37	22
2005	354	245	48	26	42	19
2006	399	276	57	31	37	23
2007	535	321	157	135	111	94
2008	582	197	106	100	100	55

**7.5.4** However, there are no reports that the missing women and children, who are still not traced out, have been kidnapped for trafficking purpose. Most of the missing cases are for the purpose of marriage, service out side the State or are due to family disputes.

## **6. Empowerment of Women**

**7.6.1** Empowerment of women is the much publicized cliché concept of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Everybody right from local politician to national leaders, NGOs, International Community and Policy Makers talk about it. Women are not yet full and equal participants in public policy and choices that affect their lives. In fact, women lag behind on vital aspects of life, be it in terms of access to education, employment opportunities or even crucial decisions about their families.

**7.6.2** Women are the most deprived amongst the marginalized communities. In 1994, the Beijing Declaration of platform for action stressed upon the need for empowerment of women. Subsequently, platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 2000 stated, “Women should be empowered by enhancing their skills, knowledge and access to information and technology”. This would strengthen their ability to combat negative portrayals of women internationally and challenge instances of abuse of power. As a follow up of national commitments made during these conferences, India has formulated the “Women Empowerment Policy, 2001” for the upliftment of women socially, politically and economically. This would require creation of an environment, through positive economic and social policies, for the development of women to enable them to realize their full potential.

**7.6.3** Himachal Pradesh Government has taken a number of steps to empower women in every sphere of life. In order to check the decline in sex ratio a massive awareness campaign has been launched to highlight that protection of female child is vital to maintain the very fabric of society. State Government is implementing schemes of cash incentives to improve sex ratio and protection of the female child. A scheme for awarding the Panchayats upto R 5.00 lakh for recording favourable sex ratio at birth has been started.

**7.6.4** Another scheme called “Indira Gandhi Balika Suraksha Yojana” to raise the status of girl child and to prevent female foeticide is also under implementation in the State. Under this scheme, an incentive of ₹ 25,000/- is provided to the parents who adopt terminal family planning methods after the birth of the first girl child and the parents who adopt terminal family planning method after the birth of second girl child are provided an incentive of ₹ 20,000/-. These incentives are given as interest bearing deposits in the name of girl child to be encashed at the time of her marriage. Financial assistance under “Matri Shakti Bima Yojana” has been increased 4 times. In the event of death due to accident, relief money has been enhanced from ₹ 25,000/- to ₹ 1,00,000/- and in the event of loss of a part of the body, this amount has been raised from ₹ 12,500/- to ₹ 50,000/-. Jan Shri Yojana has also been started for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers in the State under which no premium is to be paid by the beneficiaries. In the event of death under different circumstances, assistance ranging from ₹ 20,000/- to ₹ 75,000/- is provided under the scheme.

**7.6.5.** Under Janani Suraksha Yojana, BPL, SC and ST women aged 19 years or above are entitled for cash assistance of ₹ 500/- in case of home deliveries and

₹ 600/- to ₹700/- for institutional deliveries (in Government or accredited private institutions). This benefit is limited to 2 live births. In order to reduce MMR and IMR, a lump-sum cash assistance for transportation is also provided. Under Matri Sewa Yojana, women from all sections of the society, who opt for institutional deliveries upto 2 live births in Government Health Institution are eligible for grant assistance. Expenses of all deliveries conducted in the Government Health Institutions are borne by the Rogi Kalyan Samiti of the concerned health institution which is re-imbursed by the NRHM @ ₹ 600/- for normal delivery and ₹ 3,000/- for a C-Section delivery. After her discharge from the hospital, she is dropped back at her residence or the nearest road point free of cost by the health institutions by engaging an ambulance or a Private Vehicle/ Taxi @ ₹ 6/ km (one way only).

**7.6.6.** In order to change the negative attitude of community towards girl child and mother at the time of birth, Beti Hai Anmol scheme has been started w.e.f. 05.07.2010. Under the scheme a post birth grant of ₹ 5,100/- is deposited in bank/post office in the name of the girl child, taking birth in a BPL family which can be drawn by her after attaining the age of 18 years. Annual scholarship ranging between ₹ 300/- to ₹ 1,500/- is also provided to these girls when they start going to school from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10+2 standard.

**7.6.7.** Apart from above, one of the major strategies for securing gender equality for decision making in allocation of public resources and budget distribution, all departments of the State Government have been asked to ensure that atleast 30% of the funds are earmarked in women related sectors in such a manner that these benefit and empower the women. State Level Gender Budgeting Cell has been established under the Chairmanship of Director, Social Justice & Empowerment, HP to monitor and coordinate the activities of all Departments. Representation in this Cell has been given to the Planning and Finance Departments. This Cell will also compile and analyze the data received from various departments and will suggest policy interventions.

**7.6.8.** On political front, women MLAs constitute 7.35% in the present Vidhan Sabha which is higher than neighbouring Punjab and many other states. To increase the participation of women in decision-making and developmental activities, the State Government has raised the reservation for women in the PRIs and ULBs from 33% to minimum 50%. The percentage of women, elected in the Panchayat Elections held in December 2010 and January, 2011 is as under:-

**Table-13**  
**Representation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions**

1.	Ward Members	58.96 %
2.	Members of Panchayat Samitis	52.44 %
3.	Members of Zila Paishad	52.99 %
4.	Gram Panchayat Pradhans	51.65 %
5.	Chairpersons of Panchayat Samitis	54.55 %
6.	Chairpersons of Zila Parishads	50.00 %

**7.6.9.** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is being implemented in all the Districts of the State w.e.f. 01.04.2008 through Rural Development Department. Though there is no specific provision for women in this Act, but employment opportunity is offered equally to men and women, hence, women do get benefit of this Act. Another provision beneficial to women under this Act is that in case the number of children (below the age of 6 years) accompanying the women working at any site is 5 or more, one of such women workers will be deputed to look after these children.

**7.6.10.** Female prisoners in the Jails of the State are kept in separate blocks/ barracks. The female prisoner is allowed to keep child with her till the age of 6 years. Pre-natal and post-natal care for both the mother and child are provided in the Zonal/ Regional Government Hospitals. The pregnant prisoner is released on parole to enable delivery outside the jail. To provide medical check-up facilities to the women prisoners, regular/ permanent medical officers have been appointed in 4 Jails viz. Kanda, Nahan, Dharamshala and Bilaspur. Number of female prisoners in rest of the jails/ sub-jails generally remains quite low, therefore, permanent medical officers have not been appointed in those jails. However, Dispensers have been appointed in all the jails of the State. With a view to provide better facilities, women who are found victims in any case, are shifted to Kanda Jail.

**7.6.11.** For protection of Women from domestic violence, “Domestic Violence (Prevention), Act 2005” has come into force in the State w.e.f. 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006. Under Section 8(1) of the Act, all ICDS Supervisors have been declared Protection Officers within their respective area of jurisdiction for the implementation of this Act. Proper orientation through Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy has been given to all the Protection Officers. Nari Sewa Sadan Mashobra in Shimla District has been declared as Shelter Home under Section 6 of the Act. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has declared all District Hospitals/ Referral Hospitals/CHCs/PHCs and Dispensaries (both Ayurvedic and Allopathic) as Appropriate Health Institutions for providing health related facilities under Section 7 of the Act. Besides, 14 NGOs have been declared as Service Providers in the State under Section 10 of the Act.

**7.6.12.** In order to prevent the sexual exploitation of women at work place, Complaint Committees have been constituted in all the Departments/ Boards/ corporations and Universities of the State. Particulars of the Chairpersons of all Complaints Committees have also been put on the website of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

**7.6.13.** The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has also been enacted by the Central Government to prevent giving and taking of Dowry in the country. The Government of Himachal Pradesh is implementing this Act through Police Department. Under the Act, Dowry Prohibition Rules-2000 have been notified by the State Government. To prevent dowry, all Child Development Project Officers (appointed under ICDS) have been designated as Dowry Prohibition Officers and to assist them Advisory Boards have been constituted in all Districts of the State.

**7.6.14.** There are a number of other programmes/ schemes under implementation in Himachal Pradesh which are aimed at socio-economic upliftment of women and their general well-being. Scheme-wise description of such programmes being run by the department of Social Justice and Empowerment is given below:-

**1. Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojana**

Under this scheme, a grant of ₹ 11001/- per beneficiary is given to the parents/guardians of the girl or the girl herself for her marriage, provided their annual income does not exceed ₹ 15000/-. For this purpose, a provision of ₹144.19 lakh has been made for 2010-11.

**2. Widow Re-Marriage Scheme**

From the year 2004-05, the State Govt. has started Widow Re-Marriage Scheme. Main objective of the scheme is to help in re-habilitation of widows by encouraging male persons to enter into wedlock with widows, by providing some monetary incentive for the same. Under this scheme, ₹ 25000/- are provided as a grant to the couple. For the year 2010-11, a provision of ₹ 33.35 lakh has been made under the scheme.

**3. Widow Pension**

Widow pension @ ₹ 330/- per month is provided to widows/deserted women irrespective of their age whose annual income does not exceed ₹ 9,000/- per annum. The income of earning sons should not exceed ₹ 15,000/- per annum. A provision of ₹ 964.84 lakh has been made under the scheme for the year 2010-11. Funds to the tune of ₹ 1673.71 have also been provided under Non-Plan.

**4. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana**

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana has been started during 2010-11 in Hamirpur District with the objective to improve the health and nutrition status of pregnant & lactating women and infants by promoting appropriate practices, care and service utilization during pregnancy, delivery and lactation period. Under the scheme, there is a provision of providing cash incentive of ₹ 4000/- in a phased manner to pregnant and lactating women (excluding State/ Central Govt. employees) of 19 years of age and above for first two live births.

**5. Honorarium to Anganwari Workers and Helpers**

The State Government had been providing additional amount of honorarium @ ₹ 200/- and ₹ 100/- respectively from the State funds per month w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1997 to the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under ICDS. Now w.e.f. 19.07.2007, the amount of additional honorarium to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers from state funds has been increased to ₹ 300/- and ₹ 200/- respectively.

ICDS is being implemented on 90:10 (Centre:State) basis w.e.f. 01.04.2009. Therefore, financial year 2009-10 onwards, the State Government is bearing additional expenditure @ ₹ 150/- (10 % of ₹ 1500/-) and ₹ 75/-(10 % of ₹ 750/-) respectively per month per Anganwadi Worker and Helper. The rates of honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers are as under :-

	Total Honorarium fixed by the Government of India. (in R)			Additional Honorarium being paid by State Govt.	G.Total (2+5)
	Total (3+4)	GOI Share (90%)	State Share (10%)		
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>1. Anganwadi Workers</b>					
(a) Matriculate	1500/-	1350/-	150/-	300/-	1800/-
(b) Matriculate with 5 years honorary work	1531/-	1378/-	153/-	300/-	1831/-
(c) Matriculate with 10 years honorary work	1563/-	1407/-	156/-	300/-	1863/-
(d) Non-Matric	1438/-	1294/-	144/-	300/-	1738/-
(e) Non-Matric with 5 years honorary work	1469/-	1322/-	147/-	300/-	1769/-
Non-Matric with 10 years honorary work	1500/-	1350/-	150/-	300/-	1800/-
<b>2. Anganwadi Helpers</b>	750/-	675/-	75/-	200/-	950/-

A provision of ₹ 1095.00 lakh has been kept for meeting out State share (Honorarium) during 2010-11. A scheme of awards has also been introduced for Anganwadi Workers from the year 2000 and every year 15 Anganwadi Workers are selected for the State Level Awards.

## 6. State Home

For destitute women and wayward girls/women, State Home is being run at Mashobra (Shimla) by the department. The inmates of this Home are provided free boarding and lodging facilities and training in craft, tailoring and embroidery etc. For rehabilitation of such women, after leaving State Home, financial Assistance upto ₹ 10,000/- per woman is also provided.

## **7. Self Help Groups**

To promote economic empowerment among women, Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed. Through the network of Anganwadi Workers, so far 27,706 SHGs have been formed by the Social Justice & Empowerment Department alone. Out of total 27,706 groups, 11,514 SHGs have been linked with banks. Total saving of the groups is ₹ 50.75 crore and total loan of ₹ 81.87 crore has been taken by them.

## **8. Working Women Hostels**

A centrally sponsored scheme, 'Working Women Hostel' is under implementation in the State from the year 1983-84. The objectives of this scheme are as under:-

- (a) To provide accommodation for single working women, unmarried widows, divorced, separated and married when husband is out of station.
- (b) To provide accommodation to women/girls who are trained for employment provided the training period does not exceed one year.

Voluntary organizations, public trusts working in the field of women's welfare/social welfare/women's education are eligible for the assistance. Under this scheme, 14 Working Women Hostels have been constructed in the State. Budget provision of ₹ 20.00 lakh has been made for 2010-11.

## **9. State Women Council**

To review and monitor the effective implementation of national policy for the empowerment of women 2001(NPEW) and to advise on policy matters, from time to time on issues like advancement, development and empowerment of women, a State Women Council has been constituted in the State. Regular meetings of the Council are conducted. For the year 2010-11, a provision of ₹ 2.00 lakh has been made for meeting the cost of kit material and all other related expenses.

## **10. Awareness Campaign**

To mobilize public opinion and strengthen social efforts against social evils like dowry, child marriage, and female foeticide and to make women aware of the departmental schemes and their legal rights, awareness camps are being organized by the department for representatives of PRIs and women including SHG/ Mahila Mandal members. A provision of ₹ 12.00 lakh has been made for 2010-11.

## **11. Vocational Rehabilitation Centre/ Vocational Training to Women in distress**

Training in stenography and typing is given by the State Social Welfare Board. A provision of ₹ 4.00 lakh has been made for 2010-11.

## **12. H.P. State Women Commission**

Himachal Pradesh State Commission for Women has been constituted under H.P. State Commission for Women Act, 1996 with the aim of furthering the fundamental rights guaranteed by Article 14, 15 & 16 of the Constitution of India with respect to women and to give effect to the Directive Principles of State Policy and in particular those enshrined in Articles 38, 39, 39A and 42 of the Constitution. The Commission strives to improve the status and dignity of women in society, to investigate into and take or suggest suitable remedial measures against practices derogatory to women, to effectively monitor and implement laws affecting women and to advise the Government in all matters related to the improvement and upliftment of status and dignity of women in society.

## **13. H.P. Women Development Corporation**

The Himachal Pradesh Women Development Corporation is assisting the women entrepreneurs in the rural as well as urban areas in securing cheap loans from commercial and co-operative banks for their self employment oriented projects. The annual income of the women entrepreneurs should not exceed ₹ 50,000/-. To make the loans cheaper, interest subsidy is also provided on all bank loans so that the beneficiary does not have to bear the burden on interest beyond the rates fixed by the corporation. In addition to the above programme, the corporation initiates new projects with the financial assistance from State as well as Central Government under STEP, RMK. The corporation has been appointed as nodal agency for Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

## **7. Development of Children**

**7.7.1** Planning at the National and State level has had the aim of achieving balanced growth. The process has moved from a sectoral to an integrated approach. Emphasis laid down by the State of Himachal Pradesh upon nutrition has been evident from the 1<sup>st</sup> Plan onwards by introducing nutrition science as an essential subject in the training/ orientation of doctors for combating goitre, rickets and tuberculosis etc. In the subsequent plans, the State formulated and implemented a number of schemes to enhance the nutritional level of its people. Despite all these efforts, malnutrition in H.P. is a big challenge. It is a well known fact that under nourished child is prone to morbidity and has longer periods of illness as compared to a well fed child. The State Govt. proposes to reduce malnutrition by less than five percent in its Health Vision, 2020.

**7.7.2** In pursuance of the National Policy for Children and India's commitment to provisions enshrined in the Directive Principles of the Constitution, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme, on experiment basis, was introduced in 33 projects including one in Pooh of Kinnaur District through out the country on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1975, on the occasion of 106<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Nation. The programme envisaged following objectives:-

- i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years.
- ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of children.
- iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity , mal-nutrition and school drop out.
- iv) to achieve effective coordinated policy and its implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development and
- v) to enhance the capability of mothers to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of child through proper nutrition and health education.

### 7.7.3 ICDS in Himachal Pradesh

In 1975 i.e. at the time of launching of ICDS scheme, only one ICDS Project was sanctioned to the State by Govt. of India. The Project so sanctioned was Tribal Project in Pooh Block of Kinnaur district. Further, during Sixth and Seventh Plan period, more Projects were sanctioned to the State. In 1995-96 during universalization phase of the scheme, the Govt. of India sanctioned 29 new ICDS Projects. 4 new ICDS projects viz. Shimla (Urban), Haroli, Tauni Devi and Sulah were sanctioned during 2005-06. Thereafter, during 2009-10, 2 new Projects at Dharamshala and Nankhari were sanctioned. Today the scheme is operating in 78 ICDS Projects. Out of these 70 Projects come in the definition of Rural Projects, 1 in Urban Project (Shimla) and remaining 7 in Tribal Projects. At present all these Projects are operational with 18386 Anganwadi Centres. The District-wise Status is as under:-

**Table-14**  
**District-wise status of Anganwadi Centres**

Sr. No.	Name of the District	Number of AWCs
1	Bilaspur	1104
2	Chamba	1422
3	Hamirpur	1344
4	Kangra	4119
5	Kinnaur	230
6	Kullu	1061
7	Lahaul-Spiti	123
8	Mandi	2911
9	Shimla	2008
10	Sirmour	1462
11	Solan	1245
12	Una	1357
	Total	18,386

In addition to the above, 539 Mini-Anganwadi Centres have also been sanctioned by the GOI. Process for operationalization of Mini Anganwadi Centres is going on.

To achieve aims of the programme, following six services are provided through Anganwadi Centres in all 78 ICDS Projects of the State:-

### **(a) Supplementary Nutrition**

It is provided to children below 6 years of age and expectant/ nursing mothers and BPL adolescent girls in such a way that the nutritional intake is supplemented by 500 calories and 12-15 grams of protein for children and 600 calories and 18-20 grams of protein for women.

### **(b) Nutrition and Health Education**

It is organized in projects area, as special campaigns and through home visits by Anganwadi Workers. Women in the age group of 15 -45 years remain area of special focus.

### **(c) Immunisation**

All Children below six years of age are immunised against six deadly diseases viz., tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio and measles. Expectant women are also immunized against tetanus. Achievements of 2009-10 are given below:-

i. DPT	:106.39 %
ii. Polio	:106.40 %
iii. BCG	:109.66 %
iv. Polio Booster	:94.60 %
v. DPT Booster	:94.64 %
vi. Measels	:103.51%
vii. DT(5-6 Years)	:77.33 %
viii. Vitamin A -1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	:103.15%

### **(d) Health Check-up**

The expectant mothers are examined at least 4 times during pregnancy by health staff and are given iron and folic acid tablets. Post natal care to nursing mothers and care of new born babies is also provided. Periodical weight of children is recorded by Anganwadi Worker and close watch on their nutritional status is kept. The Anganwadi Worker is required to detect diseases/ minor ailments / disabilities in children for which she also makes home visits. She also gives treatment for minor ailments like diarrhoea, dysentery and distributes medicines for prevention of vitamin deficiency and anaemia. Medicine kit is provided to each Anganwadi Centre, @ ₹ 600/-p.a..

### **(e) Referral Services**

Serious cases of mal-nutrition and illness are referred to appropriate health institutions and follow up is done.

#### **(f) Non-Formal Pre-School Education**

Children between 3 to 6 years of age are provided stimulation by organizing creative activities in the Anganwadis in such a way that the aim of developing desirable attitude, value and behavior patterns is achieved. Annually, Pre-school Education kits @ ₹ 1,000/- per AWC are provided. During 2010-11, non-formal pre-school education is being provided to about 1,53,600 children.

#### **(g) Beneficiaries**

The population of children in the age group of (0-6 years ) is about 7.69 lakh which constitutes 12.84 % of the total population of State. The surveyed population being covered under ICDS is about 6.90 lakh. In the State, population is scattered and villages are small; therefore, at Anganwadi level average presence of children is less in comparison to other States. This year about 4,16,000 children, 1,000,00 pregnant & lactating mothers and 85,959 adolescent girls are being covered under Supplementary Nutrition Programme in the State.

#### **7.7.4 Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under ICDS**

Under the programme, cooked food is provided to the children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant & lactating mothers, BPL Adolescent Girls and severely malnourished children . Ready to eat food is given to the children who are in the age group of 6 months to 2 years. Under Supplementary Nutrition Programme, 500 calories and 12-15 grams of protein is required to be supplemented to the children, 600 calories and 18-20 grams of protein to the pregnant / lactating mothers & adolescent girls and 800 calories and 20-25 grams of protein to the malnourished children daily. The nutrition is purchased through the H.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation and for the purchase of nutrition State Level Purchase Committee under the Chairmanship of Director, Social Justice & Empowerment, H.P. with following members has been constituted:-

1. Managing Director, H.P. Civil Supplies Corporation.
2. Director, Health & Family Welfare Department.
3. Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department.
4. Special Nutrition Officer as Member Secretary.

The State Government is providing Nutrition on following rates:-

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Old rates (per beneficiary per day, in D)</b>	<b>New rates (per beneficiary per day, in D) (w.e.f. 01.04.2009)</b>
1.	Children	2.00	4.00
2.	Pregnant and Lactating Mothers	3.10	5.00
3.	BPL Adolescent Girls	3.10	5.00
4.	Severely Malnourished Children	4.00	6.00

From the financial year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is being borne by Govt of India. The recipes being provided to beneficiaries are decided in the State Level Nutrition Purchase Committee meetings. At present, following recipes are being given:-

**A. Children between 6 months – 2 years**

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Nutrimix | 6 days in a week |
|-------------|------------------|

**B. Children between 2-6 years**

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Morning Snack (Nutrimix) | 6 days in a week  |
| 2. Khichri                  | 2 days in a week. |
| 3. Sprouted Gram.           | 2 days in a week. |
| 4. Sweet Dalia              | 2 days in a week. |

**C. Pregnant and lactating mothers**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Khichri        | 2 days in a week. |
| 2. Sprouted Gram. | 2 days in a week. |
| 3. Sweet Dalia    | 2 days in a week. |

**D. BPL Adolescent Girls**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sprouted Gram. | 6 days in a week. |
|-------------------|-------------------|

**Budget**

ICDS is a Centrally Sponsored scheme. The State Govt. receives Grant -in-Aid from Govt. of India for implementation of the scheme keeping in view the actual expenditure incurred by the State Government. For nutrition, cost is borne by the State Government and Govt. of India in the ratio of 50:50. Budget under ICDS and SNP during 2010-11 is as under:-

Sr. No.	Programme	Budget for (2010-11), (In Lakh)		
		State Share	GoI Share	Total
1	ICDS	750.00	9123.00	9873.00
2	SNP	3623.00	0.01 (token)	3623.01

From the financial year 2009-10, 90 % expenditure under ICDS is borne by the Government of India and rest 10 % by the State Government.

**7.7.5. Training under ICDS**

There is provision of regular job/ refresher training under ICDS and all functionaries are provided training as under:-

Functionaries	Name of the Training	Duration	Institution where Training is provided
Child Development Project Officers/ Asstt. Child Development Project Officers	Job Training	1 Month	National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development, New Delhi/ Lucknow.
--- do--	Refresher Training	1 week	--- do --
Supervisors	Job Training	1 month	Middle Level Training Centre, RAI, Sonipat, Haryana.
---do--	Refresher Training	1 week	-- do --
Anganwadi Workers	Job Training	1 month	Anganwadi Training Centre (AWTC), Theog, Gaggal, Sunni, Rasmai
---do---	Refresher Training	1 week	--do--
Anganwadi Helpers	Orientation Training	6 days	Trained departmental functionaries (CDPOs/ DPOs)

#### 7.7.6 Innovations under ICDS

- Syllabus for pre-school education prepared and introduced.
- Monthly grading of children to access health status.
- Village Level Co-ordination Committees notified by name in all Anganwadis. Monthly meetings are held on 3<sup>rd</sup> of every month.
- Mother and Child Care Cards have been introduced.
- Provision of funds for construction of Anganwadi Bhawans under SCSP as well as Genral Plan.
- A family based web-enabled software called e-kutumb where information pertaining to every individual including women and children residing in the State is available.

#### 7.7.7. Other Scheme for Children

##### 1. Beti Hai Anmol

With a view to change negative family and community attitude towards the girl child at birth and towards her mother and to improve enrolment and retention of girl children in schools, Beti Hai Anmol scheme has been started in the state w.e.f. 05.07.2010 for girls (2 girls only) taking birth in BPL families.

### **a) Pattern of Assistance**

**i) A post birth grant amount of R 5100/- :** ₹ 5100/- are deposited in an interest bearing account to be opened in the name of the girl beneficiary and an officer of the State Govt. designated in this behalf. On attaining adulthood (18 years age) the beneficiary can withdraw the amount from her account.

**ii) Scholarship :** Annual scholarship ranging between ₹ 300/- to ₹ 1,500/- per annum up to 10 + 2 standard is provided to these girls when they start going to school. Class-wise rates of scholarship are as under:-

1. Class 1-3	₹ 300/- p.a.
2. Class 4	₹ 500/- p.a.
3. Class 5	₹ 600/- p.a.
4. Class 6-7	₹ 700/- p.a.
5. Class 8	₹ 800/- p.a.
6. Class 9-10	₹ 1,000/- p.a.
7. 10 +1 & 10 +2	₹ 1,500/- p.a.

## **2. Kishori Shakti Yojana**

### **Objectives of Kishori Shakti Yojana are:**

- i) to improve the nutritional and health status of adolescent girls;
- ii) to train and equip the adolescent girls to improve/ upgrade home-based and vocational skills ; and
- iv) to promote awareness of health, hygiene, nutrition and family welfare, home management and child care and to take all measure as to facilitate their marrying only after attaining the age of 18 years and if possible, even later;

This is a centrally sponsored scheme and was being implemented through out the State. From the financial year 2010-11, Kishori Shakti Yojana has been replaced by Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-SABLA” in 32 ICDS Projects of Solan, Chamba, Kullu and Kangra Districts. In 46 ICDS Projects of remaining District, Kishori Shakti Yojana will continue to be implemented as before. As per schematic norms, every year, Govt. of India has to release funds at the rate of ₹ 1.10 lac per project to the State.

## **3. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-SABLA**

This scheme has been started from the financial year 2010-11 on pilot basis in Solan, Chamba, Kangra and Kullu Districts by replacing Kishori Shakti Yojana and also Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) in Kangra District. Objectives of the scheme are almost same as that of Kishroi Shakti Yojna. Under the scheme grant to be provided by the GOI has been increased from ₹ 1.10 lac per project to ₹ 3.80 lac per project for IEC activities, Nutritional and Health Education, Life Skill/ Vocational Trainings, Iron Folic Acids tablets etc. In addition to this, Supplementary Nutrition will be provided to the school going girls in the

age groups of 15-18 years and all out of school adolescent girls at the rate of ₹ 5.00 per day per adolescent girl. Under this component, GOI will bear 50% cost. Remaining 50% expenditure will be borne by the State Government.

#### **4. Mother Teresa Asahaya Matri Sambal Yojana**

For the bringing up of children upto the age of 18 years, the destitute, widow, deserted and divorced women belonging to BPL families whose annual income is below ₹ 18,000/- are provided annual assistance of ₹ 2000/- per child (for two children). During the financial year 2010-11, an amount of ₹ 243.12 lakh has been provided under the scheme.

#### **5. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 is being implemented in the State with the objective of prohibiting child / minor marriages. Child marriage/ minor marriage means a marriage taking place between a male who has not completed 21 years of age and a female who has not completed 18 years of age. The Child Development Project Officers have been declared as the Child Marriage Prohibition Officers within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

#### **8. Child Protection and Juvenile Justice**

##### **7.8.1 Programmes for the children in need of care and protection.**

**(i) Child Welfare Committees:** 12 Child Welfare Committees consisting of Deputy Commissioner of the respective District as Chairman with four members have been constituted. This committee is to function as a Bench of Magistrate having powers conferred by Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and is the final authority to dispose of the cases related to care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children as well as to provide basic needs and protection of Human Rights.

**(ii) Children Home/ Shelter Home:** 21 institutions as per detail mentioned below have been established for children in need of care and protection in the state:-

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of Ashram</b>	<b>Implementing agency</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Government run Institutions</b>		
1.	Children Home, Sundernagar Distt. Mandi	Department of SJ&E	50
2.	Bal Ashram-cum-Children Home Tutikandi (Shimla)	Department of SJ&E	100
3.	Balika Ashram -cum-Children Home Mashobra (Shimla)	Department of SJ&E	100
4.	Bal Ashram-cum-Children Home Masli (Shimla)	Department of SJ&E	100
5.	Bal Ashram -cum-Children Home Sujampur (Hamirpur)	Department of SJ&E	50
6.	Balika Ashram-cum-Children Home Pragpur(Kangra)	Department of SJ&E	50

7.	Bal/Balika Ashram-cum-Children Home Killar (Chamba)	Department of SJ&E	60
<b>B. NGOs run Institutions</b>			
8.	Balika Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Sunni (Shimla)	HPCCW (NGO)	50
9.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Sarahan (Shimla)	HPCCW(NGO)	100
10.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Rockwood (Shimla)	Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust(NGO)	50
11.	Balika Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Durgapur (Shimla)	Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust(NGO)	50
12.	Anathyala Cum Shelter Home, Kotkhai, Shimla.	Giri Vidya Gayan Joyti, Anathyala, Kotkhai	40
13.	Balika Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Kalpa ( Kinnaur)	HPCCW(NGO)	50
14.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home, Kalpa (Kinnaur)	Red Cross Society, Kinnaur	20
15.	Balika Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Tissa (Chamba)	HPCCW(NGO)	50
16.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Bharmour (Chamba)	HPCCW(NGO)	50
17.	Balika Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Chamba (Chamba)	Mahila Kalyan Mandal Chamba (NGO)	50
18.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Shilli (Solan)	Himgiri Kalyan Ashram (NGO)	50
19.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Dehar (Mandi)	Divya Manav Joyti Anathyala Trust(NGO)	100
20.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Bharnal (Mandi)	Deen Bandhu Sewa Mandal (NGO)	30
21.	Bal Ashram-cum-Shelter Home Kalheli ( Kullu)	HPCCW(NGO)	50

All the above mentioned institutions are running under the State sponsored scheme “Mukhya Mantri Bal Udhar Yojana—an Integrated Scheme for the children in need of care and protection. Further, the institutions mentioned above except Sr. No. 1 have been brought under the purview of JJ Act by declaring these institutions as Bal/Balika Ashrams cum Children Home/Shelter Home. The above institutions are also covered under the centrally sponsored scheme “a programme for Juvenile Justice”. Under Mukhya Mantri Bal Udhhar Yojana there is a budget provision of D234.23 lakh for the financial year 2010-11.

(iii) **Shishu Grih:** One Shishu Grih having capacity of 15 children has been setup through Himachal Pradesh Council for Child Welfare at US Club Shimla for the abandoned children. The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is providing Grant-in-Aid to run the Shishu Grih.

(iv) **Adoption Agency:** For all matters related to adoption of orphans and abandoned children, the Himachal Pradesh Council for Child Welfare

has been declared as Licensed Adoption Placement Agency (LAPA) for carrying out adoptions in the state. So far, 66 abandoned children have been given in adoption by the above agency.

- (v) **Child Line:** A Child Line with toll free number **1098** has been set up at Shimla through HP Voluntary Health Association. The Child Line Foundation India is providing funds for the same.

### **7.8.3 Programmes for the children in conflict with Law**

- (i) **Juvenile Justice Board:** Juvenile Justice Boards consisting of Judicial Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> Class with two social workers have been constituted in all the Districts except Lahaul & Spiti. These boards have powers to deal exclusively with all proceedings under **Juvenile Justice (care and protection) Amendment Act, 2006** relating to Juveniles in conflict with Law.
- (ii) **Observation Home cum Special Home:** One Observation Home cum Special Home for the temporary reception of Juveniles in conflict with law during the pendency of inquiry, for the reception of Juveniles in conflict with Law and for their rehabilitation has been established at Una for the entire State.