

CHAPTER 8

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social welfare is concerned with welfare and well-being of the poor, vulnerable and marginalised segments of the society. This excluded population has fewer opportunities for economic, social, and human development, and remains caught in a vicious cycle of poverty; therefore, economic growth needs to be equitable for improving the living standards of all strata of the society. The social welfare sector envisages inclusion of the poor in interventions aimed at poverty reduction and social development for enhancing their upward socio-economic mobility. The Annual Plan envisages realisation of the Vision 2025 through social welfare initiatives, institutional care and rehabilitation of the needy and vulnerable. The Plan aims at providing an enabling environment and tangible opportunities through policies, programmes and projects for promotion of social justice and equity in the country.

The 11th Five Year Plan envisages socio-economic policy interventions, preparation of guidelines and the consensus of a national framework for equitable development of all regions of the country as a need of the sector in line with constitutional obligations, national priorities, local needs and international commitments.

The social sector is facing several challenges, which include: inadequate coverage and funding, scattered community development initiatives, weak social welfare departments and organisations (in terms of training, manpower and office automation), little research work on emerging social issues, insufficient qualitative and quantitative information and services available to the targeted population, registered NGOs and their interventions, insufficient mapping of community services, and lack of voluntary work, case work and school social work and mobilisation of local community resources. The Plan stresses on well-coordinated national planning in the post-18th Constitutional Amendment scenario to address these challenges through the Public Sector Development Programmes, and review of the existing social welfare policies, strategies, along with federal and provincial action plans for an effective services delivery.

Performance review 2014-15

The government and organisations, international, national, profit and non-profit, contributed through their interventions in urban and rural areas of the country focusing on various areas of social sector including: education, special education, patient welfare, training, rehabilitation and employment of needy and vulnerable people, particularly Persons With Disabilities. Major initiatives were taken under the PSDP of the federal and provincial governments, interventions under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by the corporate sector, philanthropy and welfare services by the INGOs and NGOs.

Under the federal PSDP, Rs20 million were allocated for implementation of two projects of human rights and women development. Out of this, Rs six million were utilised for the establishment of a helpline for legal advice by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights.

In order to generate and foster innovative business solution of social problems, the MoPD&R has established the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship in 2015. The project, to be completed in four years, will cost Rs128.4 million.

Outlook 2015-16

The interventions for social risk mitigation envisage new initiatives and expansion of the existing institutional welfare services for care and rehabilitation of the vulnerable by the federal and provincial governments. In addition to the public sector, international government and non-government organisations have also planned to provide social services, especially in poorly served areas.

The Plan will address the need to create an awareness about the constitutional, legal and international obligations, establish integrated mechanisms to achieve social welfare objectives by reaching to disadvantaged groups, education and research for developing professional expertise through universities and centres of excellence and make adequate financial provision for expansion and strengthening of the social welfare services through mitigating and managing the socio-economic risk and vulnerability associated with disparity, economic shocks and natural and man-made disasters.

In this regard, the development priorities include mainstreaming of the target populations of children, women, youth, PWDs, poor patients, senior citizen, etc., to secure their livelihood and income opportunities through participation of all development partners. An estimation and mapping of the vulnerable and marginalised portions of the population, and community services available to them will be carried out. For children and women, the emerging issues of disability, special and inclusive education, birth registration, their rights and protection, abuse and violence, and other problem will be addressed.

There will a mapping of the registered NGOs, their fields of operations, coverage of geographic areas, vulnerable and marginalised populations served, sustainable community developments and provision of need-based services to the underprivileged strata of population living in poverty affected areas. In the same vein, efforts will be made for promoting voluntary work, mobilising local resources and effective community mobilisation, supporting grassroots initiatives of voluntary social welfare agencies through technical and financial assistance, philanthropy reform and judicious utilisation of indigenous philanthropy.

Moreover, inclusive education and vocational training for special children and PWDs, and finally welfare and protection of the older people for ensure their rights of health, participation, care, livelihood and protection will be promoted through various measures.

Programmes

A few programmes, under the federal PSDP, have been initiated for the provision of legal advice to the needy and vulnerable people, and promotion of healthy competition through innovative business ideas for addressing social issues and employee welfare services. The table below enlists the initiatives.

Social welfare initiatives of PSDP 2015-16

(Rs million)

Sector	Project	Number of projects	Total cost	Allocations 2015-16
Human rights	Establishment of Helpline for Legal Advice on Human Rights	1	39	31.6
Social welfare	Establishment of Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, MoPD&R, Islamabad	1	128.4	50
Special education	Upgradation of National Special Education Centre of Hearing Impaired Children From Higher Secondary to Graduation Level, Islamabad	1	44.4	30
Child welfare and development	Construction of Model Child Welfare Centre at Humak, Islamabad	1	56.6	16
Staff welfare	Federal Secretariat Female Employees Hostel, Islamabad	1	200	50
Staff welfare	Federal Secretariat Female Employees Hostel, Lahore	1	46	10
Total		6	514.4	187.6