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ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ବିଭାଗ
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
PANCHAYATI RAJ & DRINKING WATER
DEPARTMENT

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Date 04/03/2024

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Organization of Mahila Sabha (Women's Meetings) in Gram Panchayats.

The localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) is being implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions with the identification of nine thematic areas that collectively address all 17 SDGs. Women Friendly Panchayat is one of the 9 themes which is essential to achieve the SDG by 2023. Government of Odisha is committed to promote equitable society by ensuring women participation in governance. Odisha State Policy for Girls and Women, 2014 was framed to create an enabling environment for Girls & Women that promotes equal opportunities, eliminates discrimination, ensures holistic development & empowerment and enhances capacities. The state has been pioneer in implementing 50% reservation of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions. Therefore, it becomes crucial for the GPs to create a conducive environment where women actively participate in planning process and Gram Sabha for decision making, prioritizing issues related to women development.

By exercising the powers vested by Section 152 of the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act, 1964, the State Government hereby issues the following administrative directive for the **organization of Mahila Sabha** (women's meetings). This directive aims to improve the effectiveness of Gram Sabha, Palli Sabhas, and Gram Panchayats by promoting inclusive development.

1. Constitution of Mahila Sabha:

A "Mahila Sabha" is a platform for raising concern of women development. It will comprise all women aged 18 years and above residing within the Gram Panchayat. Mahila Sabha enables women to initiate discussion on the issues affecting them & articulate their priorities which can be reflected in GPDPs and suitably acted upon. Effective & regular conduct of Mahila Sabha will lead for the realization of Women Friendly Panchayat.

2. Key Modalities for Conducting Mahila Sabhas

The following regulations should be observed while constituting and carrying out the proceedings of Mahila Sabhas.

A. Participation

- Mahila Sabhas will be constituted at the Panchayat level with the participation of a minimum of 20% of the total women voters of the Gram Panchayat.
- Special emphasis should be given for the participation of marginalized sections of women such as differently able women SC, ST, minority communities, widows, destitute, migrant family and female-headed households.
- All the women elected representatives of PRIs must participate in Mahila Sabha.
- Gram Panchayat should ensure the participation of the President and Secretary of all SHGs and Office Bearer of GPLF, all women Ward Members in Mahila Sabha.
- Gram Panchayat should ensure the presence and involvement of frontline workers of relevant line departments such as Health & Family Welfare, Women & Child Development, Mission Shakti, Women Police from Home Department etc. in the Mahila Sabha.

B. Convenor

- The meeting will be chaired by either the Sarpanch or the Naib Sarpanch, whoever is female. She will also serve as the convenor for organizing the Mahila Sabha.
- ASHA, AWW, ANM, members of SHGs and female ward members will mobilize women to the Mahila Sabhas and ensure their participation in large numbers.

C. Notice

- The date, time & venue of Mahila Sabha will be communicated minimum of 15 days before the commencement of Mahila Sabha Meeting through notice. The notice will be displayed in the notice board of Gram Panchayat and will serve to GPLF office bearers. It is crucial to organize Mahila Sabha prior to the Gram Sabha
- The significance and modalities of Mahila Sabha should also be discussed in the Gram Sabha meetings to raise awareness on the same.

D. Calendar

- The Calendar of Mahila Sabhas should be fixed to at least 4 times in a year and to be decided by the standing committee of Gram Panchayat dealing with women welfare prior to Gram Sabha Meeting. It should be reflected in the resolution of GP meeting. The resolution of Mahila Sabha meeting is to be recorded by the PEO of GP by taking the signature of the members present.

E. Venue

- A suitable venue for conducting Mahila Sabha i.e. Panchayat Office Premises, Community Hall, Mission Shakti Gruha, Cyclone Shelter etc. with basic facilities like safe drinking water, toilet for women need to be selected for conducting Mahila Sabha. There should not be any discrimination while making sitting arrangements on the basis of caste, religion, economic status.

F. Agenda for discussion in Mahila Sabha:

- For each Mahila Sabha, separate agenda will be taken as given below for focussed discussion.
 - **First Mahila Sabha** - Health, Nutrition & Sanitation.
 - **Second Mahila Sabha** - Education, Facilities & Livelihoods
 - **Third Mahila Sabha** - Participation & Gender Equality
 - **Fourth Mahila Sabha** - Threat & Life Skill.
- I. **Education** - Availability of educational institutions, quality of teaching, student-teacher ratio, enrolment, retention, reducing drop-out rates etc. with specific reference to girls in higher secondary schools.
- II. **Health** - Immunization (TT), Health Check-up for pregnant and lactating mother, registration of birth, anaemia, information related to health, menstrual hygiene, menopausal and gynaecological diseases, treatment and prevention of communicable and sexual transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, family planning etc.
- III. **Nutrition** - Supplementary nutrition in AWC for pregnant and lactating mother, kitchen garden (Mo Upakari Bagicha), demonstration of millets items and nutritious foods using indigenous food.
- IV. **Sanitation** - Separate toilets for women in each and every institution, safe and adequate drinking water.
- V. **Livelihoods** - Skill Development, Vocational Training, Technical Education, Bank linkage, Linkage with other institutions, Job Mela, Development of entrepreneurship, Asset Ownership .

- VI. **Participation** - Participation in decision making process at household level, local governance and Govt. schemes and programmes, enabling environment for women leadership.
- VII. **Gender Equality** - Participation of women in Sports, equal distribution of nutritious food for both the sexes in family, providing equal opportunity for higher education and building better career, Access to Banks control over assets.
- VIII. **Facilities** - Transportation, Health & Wellness Centre, Anganwadi Centre, Market Place, sport facility for the girl children, crèche, day care centre, old age home etc.
- IX. **Threats** – Identification of unsafe environment, provision for community policing and street light, addressing issues of sexual abuse, domestic violence, women trafficking, determination of sex of foetus, female foeticide, crimes, domestic violence, protection of rights and entitlement of Girls and Women.
- X. **Life Skill**- Personal development, education, career advancement, and overall well-being.

G. Proceeding of the Meeting and further course of Action:

- Recording of minutes will be done by PEO of the concerned GP. The issues raised and recommendation made in Mahila Sabha meetings will be deliberated in Gram Sabha as well as in the Gram Panchayat meeting and wherever, some interventions from Panchayat side both financial and non-financial are required to be made, the same should be incorporated in the GPDP of Gram Panchayat. A copy of the proceedings of the Mahila Sabha meeting will also be sent to the Block Development Officer and concerned line department officers at Block level for reference and further necessary action.

The Government in Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department shall have the authority to issue any clarification needed and also modify/change the directive as and when required.

This notification will come into force with immediate effect.

By order of the Governor


Principal Secretary to Government

By Regd. Post/E.mail/FAX

Memo No. 5273 / PR & DW, Date: 04/03/2024

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to Governor, Raj Bhawan, Bhubaneswar/ Secretary to Chief Minister/ All Departments/ All Heads of Departments/ Director General of Police, Odisha, Cuttack/ Secretary, OLA/ All RDCs/ All Collectors/ All Sub-Collectors/ All CDO-cum-EO, Zilla Parishads/ All DPOs/ All BDOs for information and necessary action.


Under Secretary to Government

By Regd. Post/E.mail/FAX

Memo No. 5274 / PR & DW, Date: 04/03/2024

Copy forwarded to All Section of PR & DW Department/ Guard File (E. Mail- padmgf@gmail.com) (two spare copies to PADM Section) for information and necessary action.


Under Secretary to Government