



Intervention made by Ms Zohra Chatterji, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women of India, at the Commission on the Status of Women on February 25, 2011

at the Panel discussion on evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on "the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child"

Thank you Mr Chairman.

India stands committed to protecting the rights of the girl child by providing a nurturing environment for her. The legal framework already exists prohibiting pre-conception sex selection, infanticide and providing for protection of women from domestic violence, and indecent representation of women in the media.



However, to address the problem holistically, a multi-pronged strategy has been adopted including, legislation, advocacy and awareness generation as well as programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women. These include,

- The National Charter for Children, 2004 acknowledging the obligation of the State and community to take all measures for the survival of girl child.
- The National Plan of Action for Children, 2005.
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to protect, promote and defend child's rights
- India has declared January 24 as National Girl Child Day. During this day, massive media campaigns are conducted to bring about attitudinal change and to value the girl child.
- Schemes for incentivising birth of the girl child and looking upon her as an asset rather than a burden, have been launched by many State Governments. They have also put in place a premium on her education and development through staggered conditional cash transfer schemes.
- SABLA – a scheme for empowering adolescent girls has also been recently launched in 200 districts to empower adolescent girls between the ages of 11 – 18 years by improving their nutritional and health status and upgrading various life skills including vocational skills.
- The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS: 2009-10) is running for providing care and protection to children in difficult circumstances as well as to reduce their vulnerability to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect exploitation and abandonment of children. It also provides for the setting up of Cradle Baby Reception Centers to receive abandoned babies and find homes for them.
- The national flagship programme, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) has been run to improve nutritional status of children below the age of 6 years and pregnant and lactating mother.
- Economic empowerment measures have also been taken by government include:
 - 30% job reservation for women in employment guarantee schemes
 - 40% reservation for women beneficial under self help groups
 - 33% reservation in local bodies, increasing the role of women in the political sphere
- An important amendment to the Hindu Succession Act has been enacted, granting equal rights to daughter in the inheritance of ancestral property.
- Many State Governments also provide for mandatory joint registration of property of both husband and wife.

- Besides, providing shelters for women subjected to violence or trafficking, Government is also setting up specially trained Anti Trafficking Units in police stations.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

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