



## Women Development Department, Punjab

### MOU BETWEEN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB AND OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN (OGB)

Women Development Department Signed MoU with OXFAM-GB on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. Through this MoU, WDD and OGB will develop a common approach for better coordination and cooperation in all areas so as to empower women and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

**Women Development Department and OGB will jointly work on following:-**

- 1) Formulation of roadmap and implementation strategy for Women Development Department.
- 2) Launching comprehensive and effective awareness campaign about women rights including gender sensitivity trainings of Government employees.
- 3) Setting up research center.

Oxfam will contribute and dovetail all its programs in Punjab with the objective of women empowerment. Women Development Department is confident that these important steps will lead to meaningful empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming.



## Punjab Women Empowerment Initiatives 2014



Meeting to review implementation of Women Empowerment Initiatives 2014  
chaired by Provincial Minister Ms. Zakya Shah Nawaz & Co-  
chaired by Provincial Minister for Women Development Ms. Hameeda Waheed-ud-din  
took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 in Lahore. Secretary Women Development Department Punjab  
Dr. Amna Imam also attended the meeting.

Women Development Department was established with the mandate to implement PWEI 2012. During 2012-2013, a gradual transformation of the provincial government began with the objective to turn Govt. of the Punjab into an entity that actively practices and promotes women empowerment and gender equality. With the advent of 2014, the Chief Minister announced new measures under Women Empowerment initiatives, 2014.

Under Punjab Women Empowerment Initiatives 2014, Women Development Department aimed at training of women domestic workers, veterinary training of women working in the fields of livestock and poultry at tehsil hospitals of livestock & dairy development department, technical training of workers' wives, free vocational training to women belonging to minority communities in Punjab, Rozgar Bank, exclusive space in Sunday and Ramadan Bazaars for women, establishment of cottage villages for women, distribution of poultry & cattle among rural women, awarding contract to female contractors in educational and training institutions, delegation of powers to divisional level officers for sanction of leave to employees of Health, School and Higher Education departments, encourage Private sector to create more employment opportunities for women, Punjab Day Care Fund and its workers' training, inclusion of women in executive bodies, establishment of Punjab commission on the Status of women, creation of Help Desk for females in every police station of Punjab, Toll free helpline for women, Domestic Workers' Policy, Land Revenue Laws, Waiving of fee on new/late birth registration, establishment of Family Courts Complex in every district, Family law reforms, Inclusion of the Punjab Protection against harassment of women at the Workplace Act, 2012 and Punjab Women Empowerment Package 2012 in the training courses conducted at MPDD, Revenue Academy, Police Training Centers and other training institutions to sensitize key stake holders, Provision of Scooties for working women and establishment of Punjab working women Endowment Fund to provide affordable residential facilities voucher scheme for Working Women.



## Punjab Day Care Fund (PDCF)



Ministers for Women Development Punjab in meeting of Punjab Day Care Fund Society on 01-09-2015. Secretary Women Development Department Dr. Amna Imam also participated.

Punjab Day Care Fund (PDCF) is a new initiative of Government of Punjab that targets economic empowerment of women under the widely acclaimed Punjab women empowerment package 2012. PDCF has so far been allocated Rs. 200 million to support establishment of Day Care Centres. The Fund provides cost-sharing grants to various organizations for establishing Day Care Centres such as:

- Companies established under Section 42 of Companies Ordinance
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Community-Based Organizations
- Public Sector Entities
- Public Sector Universities & Colleges
- Not for Profit Hospital/Clinics
- Other Similar Not-for-Profit Organizations



The formula for grants enables an organization to obtain 70% of the cost of establishing a day care centre from PDCF while 30% is contributed by the organization itself for building renovation. The grant can be used for operational expenditure including salaries and utilities for a specified time and one-time purchase of equipment. It cannot, however, be used on brick and mortar as that falls under the 30% cost of building renovation that is to be borne by the applicant organization.

PDCF has so far approved grants for more than 60 organization in the Punjab for establishing Day Care Centres that will facilitate more than 1600 children.

## Protection of Women Rights of Inheritance

Chief Minister Punjab announced land reforms under Punjab Women Empowerment Package 2012 to eliminate women's deprivation of inherited property. Under the Package, Punjab partition of Immovable Property Act 2012 was passed by the Provincial Assembly and accordingly enacted/notified. The Act ibid provides for curtailing delays in disposal of partition cases and suggests mechanism to alleviate the problems being faced by joint owners due to protracted litigation. Similarly Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act 2012 has been passed by the provincial assembly of Punjab and accordingly enacted/ notified.

Amendments in the Act ibid eliminates lacunas in the existing laws and rules governing land administration binding Revenue Officers that after Inheritance mutation, partition of the property must be mandatory which protects right to property, in general, and women's right to property, in particular. Under these Rules, copies of computerized national identity card and form B of deceased and all heirs have to be mandatorily produced now before the Revenue Office for mutation of inheritance, in order to eliminate deprivation of women of their inheritance right of property by Revenue Officer or any other person on account of malafide or negligence, District Enforcement of Inheritance Rights Committee have been constituted in each district.

In case a Revenue Officer deprives a woman from her right he/she can be taken to task at the department level as well as under criminal laws. Joint title of state land in Katchi Abadis is being offered to both spouses for the first time in the history of the province and as a result of this reform, 260,169 plots have been allotted in Katchi Abadies in favour of both spouses at Lahore and in other cities in Punjab. Similarly, in Jinnah Abadis 3153 plots have been transferred in favour of both the spouses. Government of the Punjab shall continue to strive for alleviating the sufferings of women on land ownership issues. In this respect appraisal of land revenue laws will be undertaken periodically to ensure that women do not face any hurdles in acquiring land.



Formation of women's caucus in Punjab Assembly reflects Women Development Department's commitment to promote women's rights in the province. Its much awaited establishment, certainly, is a feather in Department's cap. This caucus would work to enhance the status of women economically and politically in accordance with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab. This would also ensure effective parliamentary oversight of gender sensitive legislation.