STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What is all about Mission Shakti of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)?

Current Affairs

26 Jun 2027

Background

Mission Shakti is an integrated umbrella scheme launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Government of India. Formulated in a mission-mode framework, its primary objective is to strengthen interventions related to women's safety, security, and empowerment across a lifecycle continuum.

The unified mission aims to realize the government's commitment to women-led development by removing barriers to female workforce participation, preventing crimes against women, and making them equal stakeholders in nation-building.

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To execute these distinct goals efficiently, Mission Shakti is structured into two core verticals: Sambal and Samarthya.

Vertical 1: "Sambal" (For Safety and Security)

- The Sambal component focuses strictly on establishing defensive, regulatory, and emergency rescue frameworks to safeguard women from violence, distress, and institutional neglect.
- One Stop Centres (OSCs): Integrated centers that provide immediate medical aid, legal counsel, temporary shelter, police assistance, and psycho-social counseling under one roof to women facing domestic or public violence.
- Women Helpline (WHL - 181): A 24x7 toll-free emergency telecommunication service linked directly to OSCs, medical facilities, and local police stations.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP): A flagship campaign extended nationwide to reverse declining Child Sex Ratios (CSR), prevent gender-biased sex-selective elimination, and ensure girl-child education.

- Nari Adalats: An alternative dispute resolution forum operating at the grassroots/Gram Panchayat level. These are women’s collectives designed to address petty family cases, domestic complaints, and community conflicts through mediation, cutting down formal litigation delays.

Vertical 2: "Samarthya" (For Women's Empowerment)

- The Samarthya component focuses on proactively advancing the socio-economic status of women, providing financial security, improving ease of living, and lessening the burden of domestic/caregiving tasks.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): A Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) maternity benefit scheme providing a cash incentive of ₹5,000 (in two installments) for the first child and ₹6,000 for a second child (if a girl). It compensates for wage loss during pregnancy and encourages health-seeking behavior.
- Shakti Sadan: Formed by merging the erstwhile Swadhar Greh and Ujjawala Homes, these are integrated relief, rehabilitation, and repatriation shelters for women in highly vulnerable distress situations, including victims of cross-border trafficking and abandonment.
- Sakhi Niwas (Working Women Hostels): Safely located, subsidised, and secure residential complexes aimed at encouraging urban mobility for women who are entering or seeking formal employment.
- Palna: A sub-component dedicated to setting up high-quality, safe daycare and crèche facilities for the infants of working mothers, directly tackling the "care economy barrier."
- SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW): Acts as the central vehicle at the district, state, and national levels to eliminate knowledge gaps regarding all women-centric welfare policies, guiding beneficiaries to claim their rights under various inter-ministerial convergence frameworks.

Key Operational Milestones & Strategies

- Lifecycle Approach: Mission Shakti transitions away from scattered target groups to treat a woman's needs holistically—from nutritional security in pregnancy (PMMVY), to childhood protection (BBBP), working-age security (Palna, Sakhi Niwas), and legal defense mechanisms (Nari Adalats).
- Digital Optimization: The government launched a central Mission Shakti Dashboard alongside a multi-lingual mobile app, allowing women in distress to track real-time locations of Protection Officers or seamlessly book digital support appointments with their nearest One Stop Centre.

- Strict Fiscal Oversight: Funding transfers to states for running these facilities have been migrated to the SNA-SPARSH public financial management standard to ensure accountability, while encouraging state governments to build state-run capacities to directly manage shelters rather than over-relying on non-governmental bodies.

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