

Village Convergence & Facilitation Service (VCFS) in 100 selected districts

Guidelines

1. Coverage:

Village facilitation & convergence service will be provided in 100 gender critical districts with lowest Child Sex Ratio (CSR) (listed under Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao Scheme (BBBP) of the Ministry) to generate awareness regarding various schemes/programmes of the Central/State Government and mobilize the community to create demand and access/avail such services. For the first year the service will be provided in 20 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in each of the selected 100 gender critical districts. The service will then cover another 20 GPs (in the same district) in the next year and another set of GPs during the following year. Thus, the services under VCFS will not be static in nature and is conceived to cover the entire district in a phased manner during the 12th Plan period.

A lumpsum amount of Rs 82,000 has been allocated for project activity in each Gram Panchayat. The identification of districts/locations for the coverage under this service will be done in consultation with State Govt. /District Collector (DC/DM)/District Task Force under BBBP Scheme of the respective district selected.

At the GP level volunteers may be engaged who would be educated women from the local community. The primary role will be to facilitate convergence & coordination on ground and work in close coordination with the Gram Panchayats and other sub-committees to address issues pertaining to education, health, nutritional needs, legal rights, safety and security of women. The volunteers engaged under VCFS will be the focal point for activities under BBBP Scheme.

2. Activities to be undertaken:

Facilitation services under VCFS are aimed to linking women in need with the schemes/programs being implemented by the Central/State Government impacting the lives of women such as BBBP, Sabla, Jan Dhan Yojana, Swach Bharat etc. Ground level services will specially focus on the activities at the GP level as listed under BBBP Scheme. Under BBBP Scheme Multi-Sectoral interventions in 100 gender critical districts with low CSR has been envisaged and activities under VCFS (NMEW) will converge directly with the structures and activities at the GP level.

Some of the major activities to be included under VCFS are:

- Collection, compilation of databases from different sources related with resource mapping of the villages in the villages being covered by them and the target group of women.
- Mobilize women into joining collectives, strengthen existing collectives at village level.
- *Provide easy access to* informational and other resources to *the* community members for effective participation in Gram Sabhas and PRIs.
- Organize community meetings through *Naari ki Chaupal* to engage with community to build awareness about social issues, facilitate discussions on issues concerning women. The existing platform of Gram Sabha/Mahila

Sabha/VHSNC/VHND may be used. Mobilize women to participate in Gram Sabha meetings.

- Undertake household visits to spread awareness about government schemes, programmes and services, motivate to join various programs meant for their development and help in improving access.
- Grievance redressal through articulation and follow-up cases in right forums such as Panchayats, OSCC, VHSNC/VHND. Bring issues affecting women as agenda before Gram Panchayats for suitable redressal.
- Coordinate with other field level functionaries of different Government programmes like Anganwadi workers, ASHA's, ANM's for various activities.
- Facilitate convergence & access to women centric programmes through SHGs platforms
- Coordinate with other local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/ Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and their staff working in the same region to utilize opportunities for collaboration.

3. Mode of Selection of Volunteers*:

Applications will be invited by way of advisements in local Newspapers. The candidate will be required to appear for a personal interview in front of selection committee as decided by the State WCD/ District Administration.

4. Required knowledge, skills, abilities & essential qualification

- Minimum 12th pass girls/women with basic understanding of gender issues
- Resident of same Gram Panchayat.
- Awareness on women issues and the ability to effectively communicate the same in the local dialect.
- Maximum age limit of 45 years.

The said position requires commitment to work for the cause of women empowerment and high sensitivity to gender issues. There will not be any monthly salary; however, the dedicated work by volunteers may be incentivised under the directions of the DC concerned.

5. Reporting and Monitoring Mechanism

Attendance and reporting shall be done at the Anganwadi Centers and MIS report will be submitted on quarterly basis to the District Task Force with a copy marked to the office of the Secretary, WCD/Social Welfare of the respective State Govt./UT Adm. The respective Panchayat Samiti/Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee (*which are sub committees of standing committees of Panchayat and have representations from health ICDS, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and PRI*) having jurisdiction over the concerned village may also provide overall coordination/supervision of the work being done at the GP level.

6. Training

- The training of Volunteers would be a very important exercise so that they are truly empowered to work at community level. They will be trained to serve as an informed and gender sensitive functionaries who are equipped to take forward the agenda of women's empowerment.
- Training workshops will be organized. These training programmes shall be linked with reputed government and autonomous training institutes at the state level to provide training on the roles and responsibilities of the volunteers.
- Exposure visits to see some best practices on ground shall be the important aspect of the training.
- Training will be imparted through standardized of ICT Tools
- A tool kit will be designed and developed which will contain concept note regarding TOR, MIS formats, IEC materials which act as a reference manual for volunteers.

7. Budget: Village Convergence and Facilitation Service

			All values in Rs.		
	<i>Expenditure Head</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Total cost Monthly</i>	<i>Annual 2014-15</i>
A.	Activity Cost*	Gram Panchayat level	(Lumpsum)		50000
B.	Stationery items	Chart paper, pens, register, easel board, stapler etc.			2000
C.	Meeting & IEC Activities	Nari ki Chaupal, sensitization workshops, beti janmotsav etc.		1000	12000
D.	Travelling Expenses (local)			1500	18000
	Total				82000
	Annual Cost for 1 District	To cover at least 20 Gram Panchayats in the district annually			1640000

**Note: The activities may be undertaken through volunteers and their nomenclature may be kept as per the local language*

8. Funding Pattern:

VCFS shall be provided in the respective States/UT Adm with 100 percent funding by NMEW/MWCD.