

Ministry of Social Services and Social Welfare

MDG Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target groups:

- Persons with disabilities
- Elderly people
- Single parent families
- Drug addicts

Programmes and projects:

Payment of Rs 3,000 monthly grant for disabled families

At present 2135 families are receiving the monthly grant continuously. The poorest of the poor have been selected under this programme. Total cost of the project for a year is Rs 77Mn.

Self employment assistance for the disabled people to improve their income

Under this programme disabled families will receive Rs 10,000. 211 persons with disabilities have benefited from the programme up to Dec 2007.

Payment of housing grants of Rs 100,000 for a disabled family

Financial assistance is provided to construct a new house or to improve the existing house and accessibility facilities. Under this programme 287 disabled persons have been benefited.

Vocational training for disabled people

At present the Department of Social Services directly runs 5 Vocational Training Centres for disabled youth between the ages of 16 – 35. The graduate trainees will be provided with implements of trade or placed in employment to start Self Employment ventures.

In addition 12 Vocational Training Centres are run by non-governmental organisations financially assisted by the Department. Each trainee is paid a daily stipend of Rs 75 during the training and graduated trainees are provided implements of trade.

Elderly People:

Pension scheme for senior citizens

Pension scheme for senior citizens have been introduced by the Social Security Board for elders in the age group of 60 – 75 years. Under this scheme 100 elders over the age of 70 years who do not receive assistance from any relief scheme and who do not have anyone to look after them will receive a monthly pension allowance of Rs 500.

Sponsorship scheme for Elders

This scheme is being implemented with contributions received from donors who wish to be sponsors for destitute elders over the age of 70 years. In the year 2007 123 elders benefited from this scheme.

Establishment of Day Centres and provision of grants for income generation for elders

Grants are provided by the National Secretariat for Elders to commence Day Centres for Elders and to start self employment programmes

Drug addicts

Vocational Training and other spiritual programmes are conducted for drug addicts at the Rehabilitation Centre at Navodaya. Rehabilitated youth are provided with implements of trade or placed in employment.

Empowering single parent families through self employment

Specially women and children become destitute due to disasters made by man as well as nature. This prevents proper education and nutrition for the children. Therefore small scale income generating enterprises are introduced for them. Sewing machines will be provided for those who have been trained on sewing while the others are provided with financial assistance to start small scale self employments.