



# THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্বৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR  
SECONDARY EDUCATION (PLANNING CELL) DEPARTMENT :: DISPUR

## NOTIFICATION

The 17th January, 2019

**No.PMA(S) 157/2018/4.-** Research confirms that the onset of puberty leads to significant changes in school participation among girls and also many cultures have beliefs, myths and taboos relating to menstruation. Almost always, there are social norms or unwritten rules and practices about managing menstruation and interacting with menstruating women. Some of these are helpful but others have potentially harmful implications.

Stigma around menstruation and menstrual hygiene is a violation of several human rights most importantly of the right to human dignity, but also the right to non-discrimination, equality, bodily integrity, health, privacy and the right to freedom from inhumane and degrading treatment from abuse and violence.

The taboo of menstruation helps to inflict indignity upon millions of women and girls, but it also does worse. The grave lack of facilities and appropriate sanitary products can push menstruating girls out of school, temporarily and sometimes permanently. Actually, there is a relation between menstrual hygiene and school drop-out of girls from the higher forms of Primary and Secondary Education.

There are also health issues to consider apart from the above-mentioned social issues. Poor protection and inadequate washing facilities may increase susceptibility to infection and is putting girls at risk of being stigmatized.

### **(A) Justification of Programme:**

Our Government's resolve to improve women's health and safeguard her dignity is placed at the highest level. It is of concern that even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; many of our Girls cannot consistently access or afford the monthly cost of disposable menstrual products and consequently revert to less hygienic solutions. At the same time, there is little relevant health education for girls as they reach reproductive age.

Women spend a considerable period of their lives menstruating. Yet the importance of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is mostly neglected. Menstrual hygiene is a taboo subject; a topic that many women are uncomfortable discussing in public.

To overcome this condition and after careful consideration of all aspects, Govt. of Assam have announced a policy to ensure ease of access to disposable sanitary napkins. According to the policy, Girls belonging to the age group of 12 to 20 years and whose family income is below Rs.5.00 Lakh can avail an annual financial grant of Rs. 600/- through direct beneficiary transfer (DBT) mode. This money transfer will be directly linked with their date of birth and the payment will automatically stop once they reach the age of 20 years. For financial year 2018-19 it is proposed to cover 5 Lakh girls with an earmarked sum of Rs. 30.00 Crore for this scheme in this budget.

The Programme will be implemented by Department of Secondary Education, Assam.

**(B) Objective of Programme:**

The following are the objectives of the programme:-

- (1) To increase awareness among adolescent girls on use of Sanitary Napkins.
- (2) To provide access and be able to afford the monthly cost of menstrual products.
- (3) To improve the health education (menstrual Hygiene and Management) for girls approaching reproductive ages.

**(C) Target Group:** 5 Lakh Girls, in the age group of 12-20 years.

**(D) Strategies:**

- (1) A state level team will be constituted for proper implementation and monitoring of the programme under the Secretary, Secondary Education and other members would include Director of Elementary education, Director of Secondary education, Director of Higher education and Senior FAO of Secondary education.
- (2) There will be a District level Committee headed by ADC, Education with Inspector of schools, DEEO and DMC as members. ADC, Education at district level shall be designated as District Nodal Officer for proper implementation and monitoring of the programme and also to co-ordinate with the bank officials for facilitating opening of zero balance account for the girl students (**Basic Saving Account/ Small Saving Account/Jan Dhan Account**). **The Committee shall oversee the entire process of opening of Bank Accounts of beneficiaries, collection and authentication of datas and finally submission of error free datas at the District Level.**
- (3) DEEO (Elementary level, Class VII & VIII), IS (Secondary level, IX-XII) will be assistant nodal person at district level for collection of data of the Girls enrolled at School.
- (4) The Director of Higher Education will be nodal person for collection of data of Girls (up to 20 years) enrolled at Junior/Degree colleges including class XI and XII.
- (5) Pre-filled data collection format shall be distributed to the schools for the collection of beneficiary data.
- (6) The data pertaining to elementary schools will be collected by DEEO in both hard and soft copies. The data pertaining to Secondary Schools will be collected at the office of the Inspectors of Schools and will be finally submitted to the State Mission Office, RMSA in both hard and soft copies.
- (7) **There must have the following three enclosures along with the forms to be submitted by School Authority.**
  - (i) Photo copy of the bank passbook (first page only) of the girl student with photograph pasted.(the bank account number to be verified with the respective banks, if required)
  - (ii) Parents' income certificate.
  - (iii) Age proof as per school admission register/birth certificate

**(8) For secondary schools**

- (i) Inspector of School (IS) will be the nodal person for district wise collection of data.
- (ii) Class wise data will be verified and certified by the School Head and it will be submitted to the Inspector of Schools. The Inspectors of schools will submit the data to the State Mission Office, RMSA.
- (iii) Before final submission IS will do the required verification of the data.
- (iv) Detailed data capture and compilation procedure is elucidated at point no. 12.

**(9) For Elementary Schools**

- (i) DEEO will be the nodal person for district wise collection of data.
- (ii) BEEO will be the nodal person for collection of data from the respective schools of the particular block.
- (iii) Class wise data will be verified by the school's head and it will be submitted to BEEO of the particular block for class VII & VIII. BEEO will verify the data and submit the data to DEEO.
- (iv) DEEO will do the necessary verification before final submission.
- (v) Detailed data capture and compilation procedure is elucidated at point no13.

**(10)** One copy of the form has to be kept in the school/college for maintenance of records.

**(11) For Junior and Degree Colleges-**

Director of Higher of Education, being the nodal person will collect the girls database as per format which will be printed at their level & submit it to Director Secondary Education, Assam after compilation & authentication in soft copy( Excel format) and in Hard copy along with the seal sign.

**(12)** A state level Video Conference or Orientation will be conducted to train the IS and DEEO for collection of data. Further, IS and DEEO will conduct an orientation program of the head of the institutions in their respected districts for the same.

**(13) STRATEGY FOR DATA COLLECTION AND DIGITIZATION OF DATA:**

- Step-1: Collection of beneficiary data by the School Head as per format.
- Step-2: Verification and submission of Authenticated data to IS/DEEOs in soft and hard copies.
- Step-3: IS and DEEO will submit the authenticated error-free data to RMSA, Assam in soft and hard copies.
- Step-4: Submission of students' list to the State Level Committee.
- Step-5: RMSA, Assam to disburse the amount to the beneficiaries in their respective Bank Accounts.

**(E) Transfer of Amount:**

(a) Girls belonging to the age group of 12 to 20 years and whose family income is below Rs.5.00 Lakh shall avail an annual financial grant of Rs.600/- through direct beneficiary transfer (DBT) mode.

- b) The money transfer will be directly linked with their date of birth and the payment will automatically stop once they reach the age of 20 years.

**(F) Data Collection Procedure:**

- a) DEEO's will collect the information of girls enrolled at Elementary level and the Inspector of Schools will collect the information of girls enrolled at Secondary level who are in the appropriate age group.
- b) The list of girls admitted to Degree Colleges will be collected from the Director of Higher Education.
- c) In case any girl does not have her own bank account, the head of the School/ Jr. College/Institution should coordinate with the locally available banks of their jurisdiction for opening of Account.

d) Head of the institution/schools/collages shall physically verify the following mandatory documents of beneficiary :

- (i) Birth Certificate/HS Admit for Age proof (date of birth).
- (ii) Annual family income certificate (below 5 lakh) provided by respective
- (iii) Gaonburahs/Mouzadar/Circle Officer.
- (iv) Beneficiary bank passbook (account details).
- (v) The record of each girl should be maintained at school level for future reference.

**(G) Submission of Information :**

- (i) The collected information will be submitted in the prescribed format.
- (ii) College level data will be collected from Directorate of Higher Education & will be submitted to RMSA, Assam.
- (iii) I.S & DEEO will submit all collected data to RMSA, Assam.

**(H) Mandate of the Programme:**

- (i) Girls between age group of 12-20 years.
- (ii) Family annual income below Rs. 5 lakh.
- (iii) Own bank accounts is compulsory for beneficiary girls.

**PREETOM SAIKIA,**

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam,  
Education (Sec. & Lec.) Department.