

**INDIA'S RESPONSE TO LIST OF ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN [CEDAW] ON INDIA'S COMBINED SECOND AND THIRD REPORT.**

**Q. 22 Please provide statistical data about the incidence of HIV/AIDS broken down by sex, rural and urban areas, caste and ethnic groupings, and indicate what national programmes are in place to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS amongst women, including awareness-raising and preventative measures.**

**Reply to Q.22:**

The incidence of HIV/AIDS broken down by sex, rural and urban areas, is given in the Table below. Data by caste and ethnic groupings is not available.

(Fig. in million)

<b>Year</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Total estimated HIV infection</b>	3.86	3.97	4.58	5.10	5.13	<b>5.21</b>
<b>Gender-wise distribution</b>						
<b>Infected males</b>	1.94 (60.2)	2.04 (61.5)	2.58 (68.14)	3.22 (63.06)	3.13 (61.1)	3.18 (61.0)
<b>Infected females</b>	1.24 (39.8)	1.24 (38.5)	1.21 (31.86)	1.89 (36.94)	2.00 (38.9)	2.03 <b>(39.0)</b>
<b>Urban-rural distribution</b>						
<b>Infection in urban areas</b>	2.45 (75.9)	2.54 (76.8)	3.683 (70.77)	2.046 (40.07)	2.17 (42.4)	2.16 <b>(41.3)</b>
<b>Infection in rural areas</b>	0.74 (24.1)	0.74 (23.2)	1.11 (29.23)	3.06 (59.93)	2.96 (57.6)	3.05 <b>(58.7)</b>

To contain the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic, India has since 1992 implemented programs and activities in two phases under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP): Phase-I from 1992-99 and Phase-II from 1999-2006. During these two phases of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), India has developed institutional mechanisms and human resources needed for a scaled-up response to address the epidemic. The mainstay of the strategy was prevention, which helped in keeping the infection rates below 0.9% of the population. The achievements of NACP Phase-II are as tabulated below:

<b>Activity/Component</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
Establishment of Sentinel Sites for HIV trends	1162
Modernisation of District Blood Banks	883
Modernisation of Major Blood Banks	255
Strengthening of STI clinics	845
Establishment of Integrated Counseling & Testing Centres	3394
Awareness in rural areas	84.6%
Coverage of schools and colleges for AIDS awareness	93000 schools
Condom vending machines installed through NACO	11025
Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres	101
Number of patients on Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART)	47693

The core strategy has been to target high risk groups with prevention and access to care, support and treatment. Emphasis is also being laid on women in the general population who are increasingly becoming vulnerable to the infection. As part of the special focus on women, the program has an intervention titled “Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT)”, under which pregnant women who are HIV positive are being provided counseling, testing and prophylactic treatment to protect their children from getting infected.

It is proposed to take up Phase-III of the program during the Eleventh National Five Year Plan. It aims to consolidate the gains made under the earlier two phases, expand access to services, upscale critical interventions so as to ensure a decisive reversal in the spread of epidemic and strengthen

capacity of the existing health system to ensure long term sustainability. The Phase-III would continue to pay special attention to women.

**Q.28 Please illustrate how affirmative action policy has impacted dalit women as compared to other women and as compared to dalit men, as regard education, employment, political participation and decision-making. Please provide sex disaggregated data.**

**Reply to Q.28**

The affirmative actions of the Government of India has started yielding results in overall literacy levels of *dalit* (Scheduled Caste) men and women, as evident from the Table given below:

<b>Sex-wise literacy trend among Scheduled Castes(SC) and total population</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>			<b>Scheduled Castes</b>		
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1991	64.13	39.29	52.21	49.91	23.76	37.41
2001	75.00	54.00	65.00	66.64	41.90	54.69

The above Table shows that the literacy among Scheduled Castes women increased by 18.14 percentage points during 1991-2001 as against 16.73 in respect of Scheduled Castes men. The corresponding increase in total population during same period was only 14.79. The gross enrollment ratio (GER) of Scheduled Caste girls is also increasing over the years at Primary and Upper Primary stages of schooling.

There is 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes in the services under the State. This affirmative action of the Government has enabled their representation in the services of the Government of India to be proportionate to their population percentage, except in Group 'A' & 'B' posts. Gender-wise data on this aspect is not available.

The Scheduled Castes women occupy a relatively better position in employment than the non-SC/ST women. According to Current Daily Status, the percentage of employed persons for SC rural women was 21.20% in 1999-2000 as compare to 18% for non-SC/ST women. The percentage

employed among the SC women, however, is much lower than among the SC male (46.20%).

Seats have been reserved in proportion to the population percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Local Self Government i.e. *Panchayats* (Village Council) and Municipalities and no less than one third of the total number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes are earmarked for women belonging to this category. This provides an opportunity to Scheduled Caste women to take an important role in decision making at the village level.

The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation covered 24,932 women beneficiaries during the year 2005-06 under its various schemes, which constituted 46.76% of the total coverage. Similarly, 30,496 women beneficiaries were covered under various schemes of National *Safai Karamcharies* Finance and Development Corporation during 2005-2006, which constituted 82% of total coverage. The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation provides loans on easy terms to women belonging to backward classes living below the poverty line, under the schemes of “New *Swarnima* for Women” and “*Mahila Samridhi*” so as to make them self-reliant.

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