



ODISHA PVTG EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME
ST & SC Development Department
Govt. of Odisha



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Letter No. 2429 Date: 24.12.2020
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From :

Sri P. Arthanari, IFS,
Programme Director, OPELIP.

To,

The Special Officer,
All 17 Micro Project Agencies.

Sub: Regarding guideline for release of Late Marriage Incentive to the eligible PVTG girls.

Madam/Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am to enclose herewith the guideline for release of late marriage incentive to the deserving eligible PVTG girl. Awareness at all levels should be made for spreading message of encouraging late marriage so as to prevent early marriage among PVTG communities. Social Mobiliser along with Community Institution & Nutrition Officer should take the lead of spreading such awareness during field visit and meeting/training whenever conducted.

You are therefore informed to ensure proper awareness for prevention of early marriage, promote PVTG HHs for availing later marriage incentive facility, circulate the above guideline widely and instruct all concerned to strictly adhere to the guideline.

This is for your information and immediate action.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Programme Director

Memo No.: 2430 Date: 24.12.2020

Copy to all Chief Functionary of facilitating NGOs for 17 MPAs for information and necessary action.

[Signature]
Programme Director

Guideline for Late Marriage Incentive distribution to PVTG Households in Programme Areas of OPELIP

Introduction

Odisha is home to 62 STs including 13 PVTGs. The habitation of PVTGs are characterized by rugged hilly terrain and high rainfall and together account for most of the State's area demarcated as forests. For the economic and social development of the PVTG tribal population, with the support of GoI, the State has established 17 Micro-Project Agency (MPA) areas.

The PVTGs gather non-timber forest produce (NTFPs) both for consumption and selling and this occupies a significant space in their livelihood basket. However, with a number of factors like the extreme poverty and malnutrition that characterises PVTG population in Odisha, low level of literacy, low level of income, ignorance, lack of awareness etc. Govt. of Odisha in partnership with financial assistance from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) initiated Odisha PTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP).

The PVTGs among the STs remain the most disadvantaged in the State. They fare poorly on all development indicators such as food and nutrition security, literacy and health. Given their high dependence on an ecologically complex natural resource base, they are also highly vulnerable to variability in weather and climate shocks. Although several provisions in the Indian Constitution seek to ensure better quality of life for the PVTGs, their economic status has not improved, and in many cases it may have deteriorated, due to their inability to negotiate and cope with the consequences of their involuntary integration with the mainstream economy, society, and cultural and political systems. The livelihoods of PVTGs are overwhelmingly dependent on natural resources. They derive their livelihood from shifting cultivation, rain-fed agriculture and gathering of NTFPs. Settled farming is relatively new to them and their farming practices are primitive, with rain-fed paddy and millets being the main crops. There is high incidence of landlessness among the PVTG. Given the ecological complexity of their terrains, poor farming systems and lack of focus for the development of rain-fed areas, the PVTG areas have been suffering widespread land degradation. Declining productivity drives them to migrate in search of wage labour, often to the neglect of their own farming systems. Efforts are therefore needed to reverse this downward spiral of low productivity and declining resource base.

P. S. S.

Rationale

In the tribal communities and in specific among PVTGs, girls are seen often married off at the age of 14 onwards wherein the right age for a girl to get married is 18 and above. While early marriage deprives girls of their education, other factors like health and realizing their potential also major issues. Early marriage too exposes girls to the high risk of too early pregnancy, child bearing and motherhood before they are physically and psychologically ready. Young motherhood and child bearing contributes to the poor health condition of both mother and children.

Having such prevailing issues, during the project design of OPELIP, a late marriage incentive system has been introduced in order to check such early marriage and promote late marriage at appropriate age. Initially an amount of Rs. 2,000 had been provisioned in Annual Work Plan & Budget which has been enhance to an amount of Rs.20,000.00 which is given to the PVTG household as an incentive to promote late marriage and curb early marriage.

Awareness

1. Massive awareness to be made among community in monthly village development association(VDA) meeting
2. In the monthly meeting of village development committee(VDC), members of VDC should discuss about creating awareness among each households of late marriage and also about likely cases of early marriage for informing their Community Resource Person(CRP) and other officials of FNGO & MPA.
3. During the weekly/fortnightly/monthly meeting of Women Self Hep Groups/ Cluster Level Federation/ Gram Panchayat Level Federation, promotion of late marriage incentive should be discussed and each member should be assigned to spread the awareness

Identification

1. Girls from the PVTG households in PVTG villages under OPELIP marrying after 18 years should be identified by CRP and inform Village Development Committee.

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2. The members of Village Development Committee should make a visit to the concerned household and note the date of marriage and other details like age, name of husband, address of girl's home after marriage etc.
3. During the monthly meeting, there should be resolution for award of incentive to the girl marrying after the age of 18.

Documents required

1. Copy of VDC resolution
2. Copy of ADHAR Card (if available)
3. Copy of Voter Card (if available)
4. Copy of Birth Certificate
5. Copy of certification by local Sarpanch on age proof (in case birth certificate not available)
6. Copy of Bank account details
7. Photocopy of Cheque to be issued
8. Photograph of married couple (if available)
9. Photograph during handing over of cheque to girl after marriage in village (if available)

Incentive

1. The amount of incentive to be released in shape of account payee cheque to the girl and handed over in a community meeting in presence of villagers so as to encourage other girls and their family to adopt similar process.
2. The amount to be released should be as per the provision made in the ongoing financial year of approved Annual Work Plan & Budget.

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