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Role and Functions of Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram

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ABSTRACT

The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram (DSW&TA) played a remarkable role in the upliftment of the people in the state, especially for vulnerable sections of the society, such as elderly persons, people living in poverty, persons with disabilities, etc. The present study highlighted the role and functions of DSW&TA for the welfare of the people in Mizoram. The Department is assigned to implement various important programmes by the central ministries such as the Ministry of tribal affairs, the Ministry of Rural Development and lastly the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. In-depth interviews with representatives from the Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram (SW&TA) were used to collect Primary data. Secondary data were obtained from books, papers, journals, records, statistics, and libraries.

Key Word: Institute, Centre, Training, Scheme, Role and Functions.

Introduction

In Mizoram, the Social Welfare Department was set up as a separate division within the Education Department between 1973 and 1974. One State Social Welfare Officer, one District Social Welfare Officer, and a small staff were the responsible officials. The Department was thereafter elevated to the rank of Directorate in 1980. The Social Welfare Department expanded and was split into two directorates: Women & Child Development and Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs. Additionally, each of these two Directorates has its own office and staff. In the Chaltlang locality of Aizawl, Mizoram, the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram, is now operational with 10 subordinates and 207 employees. Many regular employees are working for the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram, ranging from Directors to IV Grades. The Directorate's staff positions are organised hierarchically.

Methodology

The study is a descriptive research design. Administrative officials of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram, were visited to collect primary data. Secondary data were obtained from internet sources, books, papers, journals, records, statistics, and libraries.

Objective of the Study

- a) To study the role and functions of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram.

The Aizawl East and Aizawl West District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs) of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs

DSWOs were formed by DSW&TA, Government of Mizoram. DSWOs put efforts to improve the living conditions of tribal people, the elderly, those with disabilities, and drug addicts. The aims and targets of DSWO East and DSWO West are as follows:-

- a) To contribute to the welfare and development of the state's indigenous people
- b) To promote the independence and welfare of the disabled
- c) To help and take care of the state's senior population, especially the less fortunate. The provision of support, treatment, and rehabilitation services to people who have already fallen victim to addiction while working to prevent substance usage in the State.

- d) To aid NGOs promoting the well-being of tribal people, the disabled, the elderly, and drug users in the State.

Mizoram Social Defence & Rehabilitation Board

The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs formed the Mizoram Social Defence & Rehabilitation Board. It was founded on April 17, 1999. And it had one crore when it first started. The Mizoram Social Defence & Rehabilitation Board's primary responsibilities are as follows:-

- a) To adopt the appropriate measures and actions for the Mizoram region's prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse.
- b) To develop significant institutions and treatment facilities for alcoholism, drug addiction, and prevention
- c) To support and aid non-governmental organisations in taking the required steps for the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of drug users and alcoholics.
- d) To keep an eye on and assess the performance of non-governmental organisations that seek to stop drug abuse and alcoholism and to provide rehabilitation and treatment.
- e) To conduct training and work on research for the Board's success.

Residential Institute and Training Centre for Tribal Youth

For the year 2020, the Residential Institute and Training Centre for Tribal Youth is offered by the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs. The goal is the socio-economic liberation of tribal women in challenging situations. The goal is to provide disadvantaged women with the necessary skills for independent living and to equip disadvantaged tribal women with the ability to compete in the employment market.

The Jordan Centre at Sethawn

The Jordan Centre at Sethawn, operated by the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, is located inside the District Jail in Armed Veng, Aizawl, Mizoram. When it was first founded on March 30, 1990, it was named as the De-Addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centre and was a part of the Government of Mizoram's Health & Family Welfare Department. The Jordan Centre is designed to offer specialized treatment to those who have fallen prey to drug and alcohol abuse. The centre was transferred from the Health & Family Welfare Department to the Social Welfare Department. The Jordan Centre is now under the control of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, which was formerly known as the Department. Due to space restrictions, The Jordan Centre could only accommodate 150 guests (male and female). During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, Rs 920.27 lakhs were given for the Jordan Center's upgrade.

Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)

By creating Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs has played a crucial role in advancing children's education. EMRSs were established in several rural locations of Mizoram so that the tribal youth or children may receive a high-quality education that would have a significant impact on their future. The Central Board of School Education is associated with EMRS. It is a programme that receives only central sponsorship and support. EMRS covers classes VI through XII.

Tribal Research Institutes (TRI)

Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) are being built in Kelsih village, Aizawl District, Mizoram. The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs aimed to promote TRI. The funding distribution for Support to Tribal Research Institute is displayed in the table below.

Vocational Training Centres

To train tribal youth in occupations like tailoring, shoemaking, cane and bamboo works, fiber works, etc., the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram has established three vocational training centres in Serchhip, Kolasib, and Lunglei. 100 participants attend each training facility. In each trade, there are 20 trainees. Two additional vocational training facilities at Champhai and Saiha have been approved by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. These two centres offer the following trades: bamboo and wood works, handloom and weaving, electrician two-wheeler repair and tyre repair/painting. The names of the trades offered at the vocational training institutes are as follows: clothing manufacturing, beauty and wellness, hotel management/hospitality, information communication technology (ICT), automobile, plumbing, electronics, and electrical.

National Social Assistance Programme

The Government of India's Centrally Sponsored Scheme is known as NSAP. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, currently oversees its administration. The Directorate has been carrying out the policies and programmes of the three significant Ministries of the Government of India in addition to the plans and initiatives under the control of the State Government of Mizoram.

The Training Centre for Specially-Abled Persons

The Training Centre for Specially-Abled Persons, part of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, offers training to people with exceptional abilities. shoemaking and tailoring for male learners as well as tailoring for female trainees. During the training duration, the students receive a monthly

stipend of Rs. 250. After completing the training programmes, the learners are given instruments like hand sewing machines, treadle sewing machines, and cobblers.

Unique Disability Identity Card

The Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs played a significant role in raising awareness of the Unique Disability Identity Card, which may be obtained from any district hospital, among the general public and people with disabilities. People with disabilities who have a unique identity card are eligible to participate in various government initiatives. The provision of social services and plans for people with disabilities is crucially facilitated by the Directorate of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs. It offered the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme for those with disabilities who fall under the BPL category or live in poverty.

State Disability Pension

Disability Pension was made available by the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs with financing from the Mizoram State Government. The beneficiaries of the State Disability Pension receive Rs 350 per month. Pension is given to 200 handicapped persons who are blind and bedridden.

Special Loans

People with disabilities were given special loans by the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs for the recipients to use the money to begin their careers and occupations. National Handicapped Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDS) Loan Scheme is the name of the programme.

Economic Rehabilitation

Through a crucial scheme, the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs allowed people with disabilities to choose from a variety of trades like poultry, petty business, etc. Shoe-making and sewing machines are given to the beneficiaries. The socioeconomic condition of people with disabilities was greatly improved by this scheme. The programme is referred to as Economic Rehabilitation.

Writer/Scribe Allowance

Exams can be written in the test room by a representative hired by disabled students. The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs will cover the cost of hiring a representative. This crucial programme is called Writer/Scribe Allowance.

Handicapped Students Stipend benefit

Students with disabilities who enrol in a public, private, or special school are eligible to receive the Handicapped Students Stipend benefit. So that paying for their school expenses won't be a hardship for their family. Class I through Class XII are covered by the stipend for disabled students. The pattern is as follows:- a) Rs. 800 per head each year, up to Class IV. b) Rs. 1000 per person every year for classes V–VII. c) Class VIII–XII: Rs. 2500 per person, per annum.

Unemployment stipend

Disability-related individuals who registered at the employment exchange office are eligible for a Rs 7800 unemployment stipend. The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs administers the programme.

The Specially-Abled Persons Training

The Specially-Abled Persons Training Centre was developed in Chaltlang (Aizawl) and Lunglei to give the necessary training for people with disabilities to be employable and obtain permanent job and employment. During the training duration, the trainees receive a stipend of Rs. 8400. After the training session is through, they are given a few necessary machines. The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs was in charge of this training facility.

Job Reservation for PwDs

People with impairments are eligible for a 4 percent job reservation in government positions. The scheduled tribes that include people with disabilities benefit from a modification of the age requirement for applying for government jobs. The age relaxation for those with disabilities is 35 + 15 years.

Assessment & Certification Camps

In Mizoram, the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs has been instrumental in the evaluation and certification of PWDs. The Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs and the Health & Family Welfare Department worked together to organise these assessment and certification camps. The camps are held to evaluate the living circumstances, socioeconomic standing, and state of health of people with disabilities in Mizoram.

It is carried out to make sure that all vulnerable disabled people have the right to take advantage of government services and schemes. Using aids and gadgets like wheelchairs, crutches, and hearing aids, people with disabilities can live happy lives. Thus, the Directorate's free aids and appliances are only available to people who have been evaluated and certified. Therefore, assessment and certification camps are required to evaluate and certify those who have not yet been evaluated and certified, particularly those living in rural areas.

Old Age Home

Senior citizen welfare in the state has been a priority for the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs. The Department established an Old Age Home for State Senior Citizens in Aizawl in 1989 in addition to the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme. This home is for elderly state residents who are homeless. People living in poverty who have no family or friends or permanent citizens of Mizoram are eligible to live in an old age facility. The old age home offers amenities and programmes for elderly residents. The State Old Age Home, which has a 25-inmate capacity, is situated in Luangmual, Aizawl, Mizoram.

Senior Citizen ID

Senior citizen identity cards, which are given out to seniors, are also known as identification cards. The Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs office in Chaltlang accepts applications for this ID card from those over 60 during office hours. Holders of ID cards can travel on planes, trains, and on public transportation for less money. Seniors who possess a Senior Citizen ID card are eligible for several programmes and schemes run by the governments of India and Mizoram. A passport-size photocopy and one copy of the Aadhar must be submitted by applicants.

Residential Institute & Training Centre for Indigenous Youth (RITC)

In 1984, the Residential Institute & Training Centre for Indigenous Youth (RITC) was founded to promote Indigenous women's careers in tailoring. The institution's previous name was Home for Women in Distress. However, the Institute is now available to tribal men and women, and between 1984 and 2020, 916 (tribals) graduated from RITC.

The Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016

The Rights of Persons with Disability Act 2016 has been well-protected by the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs. From 2010 to 2018, handicapped-accessible restrooms, ramps, handrails, and lifts were added to the chosen government buildings. The DSW&TA recently provided a list of 10 government agencies that would be made accessible to people with disabilities.

Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) is a central programme that provides Grants-in-Aid to Non-Governmental Organisations that promote the rights of people with disabilities. NGOs can submit applications online at grants-make-gov.in. Under the direction of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, the Spastic Society of Mizoram and the Samaritan Association for the Blind are actively implementing the programme.

The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs)

The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) programme enables people with impairments to be eligible for several government programmes. The centre's responsibility is to carry out surveys to identify people with disabilities. The centre is actively raising awareness for the early detection and treatment of impairments. Some of the crucial services provided by the Centres include early intervention, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, assessment of the need for appropriate devices for people with disabilities, promotion of education, vocational training, providing loans, and aiding people with disabilities in obtaining UDIDs.

State Social Welfare & Rehabilitation Centre

The Social Welfare Department founded the State Social Welfare & Rehabilitation Centre in 1990. The facility was once known as the Reception Center/Protective Home. It was constructed in Chanmari, Aizawl, Mizoram. The facility was designed for female drug and alcohol addicts. 877 women have received care in the centre to date. Oil India Limited (OIL) and the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs collaborate frequently. OIL approved Rs 11 lakhs in March 2020 for the centre's improvement and development. The OIL recently gave the centre desktop and laptop computers, xerox equipment, tools and accessories, a laminating machine, and spiral binding.

The Mizoram Social Defence & Rehabilitation Board (MSD & RB)

The Mizoram Social Defence & Rehabilitation Board (MSD & RB) was founded in 1999 to support the community and Mizoram's drug and alcohol abusers. It is presently under the direction of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs, Government of Mizoram. There have been awareness-raising campaigns among the youth of the churches and society, as well as among parents and teachers, in schools, colleges, and universities. In Champhai Village and Thingsulthliah Village, MSD&RB is taking the required action. Programmes including abscess management and medication detoxification, Individual counselling, group therapy, sermon-based spiritual therapy, gospel camping, and spiritual counselling are all forms of psychotherapy.

Link Worker Scheme

To protect people from the Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV)/ Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the Link Worker Scheme was put into place. By putting this programme into place, the MSD&RB offered ICTC/ART counselling. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, provided financial support for the Link Worker Scheme, which was put into action in the Champhai and Serchhip District.

The Outreach & Drop-In Centre (ODIC) scheme

The Outreach & Drop-In Centre (ODIC) scheme is being implemented in the Aizawl & Champhai districts of Mizoram. This programme is designed to offer drug addicts and patients counselling. The ICTC/ART Centre and the Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centre are where this programme is implemented.

Prison Intervention Programme

MSD&RB implemented a prison intervention programme for drug treatment and post-release monitoring in Central Jail, Aizawl. The programme is designed to give drug addicts who have already been released from prison care. In addition, the prisoners receive instruction and medication.

National Creche Scheme

Children under the age of seven are served by the National Creche Scheme at the State Social Welfare & Rehabilitation Centre. Children are given a cosy space to play with educational toys. They also receive moral instruction. Children are cared for and taught by creche employees and assistants. The kids are given nutritious meals like chow, biscuits, fruits, and liquids.

Ujjawala Programme

The State Social Welfare & Rehabilitation Centre is currently implementing the Ujjawala programme to protect victims of human trafficking from these practices and to prevent it from happening in the future. The Ministry of Women & Child Development is in charge of carrying out the programme centrally. They offer care and counselling to those who are the victims of human trafficking. The Ujjawala Centre is utilised to care for victims of human trafficking, and it provides them with appropriate direction, preventative measures, and awareness. The staff at the centre offered a welcome package and psychosocial counselling.

Conclusion

There are centres, offices, homes, and boards established by DSW&TA, Government of Mizoram, to undertake specific role and the functions assigned to them. All these organisations are supervised and controlled by DSW&TA for their proper functioning. To improve the living conditions and work for the welfare of Tribes in the State of Mizoram are the primary goals of the Directorate of Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs. The Directorate is making great efforts to support and uplift elderly people, women, children, and people with disabilities. Its objectives include helping those who are poor, enhancing rural infrastructure, and providing social security. The Directorate's staff members are expected to follow the directives, principles, and laws that the Directorate has established. One noteworthy project is that the Directorate collaborates on numerous levels with non-governmental organisations including YMA, MHIP, MUP, and various coordination committees.

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