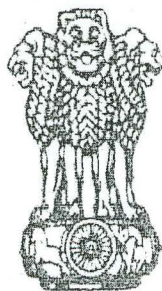


SCHEME OF
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO
PARENTS OF TRANSGENDER CHILDREN



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Scheme for Supportive Money to the Parents of Transgender Children

I. Introduction

The Transgender persons face stigma and discrimination in almost every sphere of their life including within the group, health facilities, education, employment etc., social schemes (housing, banks etc). Transgender persons are physically, verbally and sexually abused. Extreme social exclusion diminishes self-esteem and sense of social responsibility in them.

Article 41 of the Constitution of India enjoins the States to make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development. Article 14 also guarantees to all persons equality before the law. Article 19(1) ensures for all citizens freedom of speech and expression. Article 21 expresses protection of life and personal liberty to all persons. Article 15 (1), 15(2) and 16 (2) in express terms prohibit discrimination on the ground of sex.

II. Status of transgender children

Most families do not accept if their child starts behaving in ways that are considered inappropriate to the expected gender role. Consequently, family members may threaten, scold or even assault their child from behaving or dressing-up like a girl or boy. Some parents may outright disown and evict their own child for crossing the prescribed gender norms of the society and for not fulfilling the roles expected from them. Parents may provide several reasons for doing so: bringing disgrace and shame to the family; diminished chances of their child getting married in the future; and perceived inability on the part of their child to take care of the family.

III. Need for supportive money

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Awareness and information is needed among parents to support their gender-nonconforming or transgender children, setting aside their discomfort and deeply held normative attitudes. Parents should be alert to the risk of the children facing bullying and other violence outside the home – in the extended family, at schools, on the playground, and support them accordingly. They also need to take cognizance of the escalation in stress and discrimination faced by a transgender child as he/she grows into adolescence.

Counseling and other mental health services that affirm the child's gender identity are needed for the child as well as their parents. Support groups help parents to (i) overcome misconceptions, understand the difference between sex, sexuality, gender, and intersex variations (ii) realize that they, as parents, are not alone (iii) that their children's gender-nonconformity is not the result of bad parenting (iv) be able to work through their negative feelings of anger, disbelief, shock, or disappointment in a safe space. Additionally, existing forums such as the Anganwadi Centres and Self-Help Groups may be oriented on transgender issues, and involved in providing information to parents of gender-nonconforming youth.

Considering the above aspects, the Ministry has formulated a Scheme to provide supportive money to the parents of transgender children in order to support such parents in successfully bringing up their transgender children against societal intolerance, stigma, discrimination and violence. Present scheme shall also act as a feeder program for the Schemes of pre and post matric scholarship.

IV. Features of the Scheme

i) Name of the Scheme

Scheme for supportive money to the parents of transgender children

ii) Eligibility criteria

For purpose of claiming Central assistance, the following criteria shall apply:

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- i. Parent must certify on an affidavit that they have a child showing gender non-confirming behavior.
 - ii. The age of the child shall be less than 18 Years.
 - iii. In case of death of the parent, supportive money will be made available to the guardian subject to production of the relevant Certificate of guardianship obtained from Competent Authority.

iii) Funding pattern of the scheme

The State Governments/UT administrations will receive 100% Central Assistance from the Government of India for the total expenditure under the scheme. The Central Government will release 50% of the Central share on allocation of the budget in the beginning of the financial year and the remaining 50% (after taking into account unspent balance, if any) will be released on receipt of proposal from States/UTs and utilization certificate of the assistance provided in the previous Financial Year.

The Central Assistance under the scheme will be provided at the rate of Rs 1000/-(rupees one thousand only) per transgender parent per child per month.

The scheme proposes to cover about 5000 beneficiaries (parents of transgender children) in a year. However, the Central Assistance to higher number of beneficiaries can be given if the States/UTs identify more number of eligible beneficiaries and seek assistance for the same from the Ministry.

The Ministry of Social justice & Empowerment may also conduct awareness programmes through the recognized institutions in this regard for which the cost shall be borne from the budgetary provision of the scheme.

iv) Mode of Payment

The supportive money will be credited into a post office or scheduled commercial bank account of the beneficiary (parent of the transgender child).

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V. Computerisation of database and operationalisation of the scheme

In order to enhance transparency and accountability in the implementation of the scheme, the details of every beneficiary should be maintained in a computerised database. A system should be devised so as to credit the amount of pension payable to each beneficiary directly into his account either in a post office or in a scheduled commercial bank. The list of beneficiaries shall be furnished to the Ministry for placing on the Ministry's website.

VI. Monitoring of the scheme

All the State Governments/ UT Administrations implementing the scheme will furnish data of beneficiaries and expenditure under the scheme, to the Government of India regularly in the half yearly Reports. The States/UTs will streamline disbursements so that the payments are made timely, will also have a mechanism for a more transparent system of sanction, adopt a system of annual verification of beneficiaries, conduct field inspections, visits etc to ascertain that the Central Assistance reaches bonafide beneficiaries and to get feedback on the implementation of the scheme. The Gram Panchyats/Municipalities are expected to play an active role in the identification of the beneficiaries under the scheme. Further, the due Central Assistance is released to States/UTs subject to availability of Utilization Certificate and taking into account unspent balance with them.
