

“Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojna”.

1. Introduction

The Government of Himachal Pradesh has been implementing a plethora of initiatives and schemes aimed at fostering equality and ensuring the holistic development of women and children across the State. These initiatives and schemes are spread across a broader spectrum such as women's needs for shelter, security, safety, legal aid, justice, information, maternal health, food, nutrition etc., as well as their needs for economic sustenance through skill development, education and access to credit and marketing to improve their status equal to men. Thus the Government of Himachal Pradesh has been making sincere efforts to empower women in socio-economic and politico-cultural aspects, so that a welfare state and a prosperous nation can be built. When women are empowered, it leads to an overall and impressive growth of whole economy.

Extending the same resolution, the Government of Himachal Pradesh intends to provide more benefits to Ekal Naris, Widows and Single Mothers for nurturing and educating their young children so that a level playing field is provided to them in order to grow and sustain in life.

Looking into the various existing Schemes of the State and with the introduction of the Mission Vatsalya (Scheme of the Govt of India), it is the need of the hour that all such schemes be amalgamated into a single Scheme with the aim to provide benefits to the beneficiaries in the simplest way and to make them educationally and financially sustainable in the life.

Orphan children up to eighteen years of age are a vulnerable group of any welfare State. These children become more prone to drop out of school, child marriages, sexual abuse, drug abuse, trafficking & unemployment and are forced to lead miserable lives when they lose both or either of their parents in any incident, or whose parents are disabled or not able to look after them. Looking into the gravity of life of orphans, the State government came up with MUKHYA MANTRI SUKH AASHRAY YOJNA in the year 2023. Mother Teresa Asahaya Matri Sambal Yojna and Sponsorship programme under Mission Vatsalya are also operational to supplement the biological or extended families of children in need of care and

protection, wherein conditional financial assistance is provided to ensure that children continue to stay and grow within their social and cultural milieu in community, without displacement.

Looking for the holistic development of all such children and to make them self reliant in their lives, the Department has come up with this scheme by subsuming Mother Teresa Asahay aMatri Sambal Yojana.

2. Existing Schemes

Sr. No.	Name of the Scheme	Beneficiary	Remarks
1	Himachal Pradesh Mother Teresa Asahaay Matri Sambal Yojna (amended) 2009	Widows, divorced, deserted and abandoned women and their children upto the age group of 0-18 years.	This scheme granted amount of Rs. 6000/- Per child, maximum up to two children per annum, for sustaining and complementing nutritional needs of the Children. The entire Budget for the Scheme for Financial Year 2022-23 was Rs. 11.53 Crore and in FY 2023-2024 was Rs. 9.39 Crore. After announcement of Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojna, this scheme needs to be subsumed in the present Scheme as the latter provides the wider coverage to beneficiaries.
2	Sponsorship Programme under Mission Vatsalya	Children of widows, divorced or abandoned women having annual income not exceeding Rs. 72,000/- per annum in rural areas and Rs. 96,000/- in urban areas.	Rs. 4000 per month per child are provided for maintenance and education of child till the age of 18 years.

3. Need for Starting Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana

Widowhood, desertion and abandonment have been found to have negative impacts on widows / women and their children. Things become particularly hard for such women as they are left alone with the responsibilities of catering for the children single handily. Many of them do not have any educational background that qualifies them to look for jobs. They are particularly vulnerable and are deprived of moral and financial supports which they need most to sustain themselves and also to take care of education of their children. They also face multiple challenges that contribute to lower educational attainment and achievement among their children. Children and young people who drop out of school early are also vulnerable to unemployment, poverty, teen marriages etc. It is therefore not surprising as they feel inadequate to cope with the responsibilities of providing good and qualitative education for their children. Disability is associated with unemployment and poverty. Having a disabled parent reduces a child's probability of attending school. Thus there is also a need to directly support the education of children with disabled parents. Therefore, to address the economic, emotional, and social support needs of widows, destitute/ abandoned mothers and disabled parents and to create an inclusive educational environment for their children, this new scheme named Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha has been started by the Himachal Pradesh Government.

4. Title

This Scheme Shall be known as "**Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojna**"

It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

This scheme shall be applicable to domicile of Himachal Pradesh.

5. Definitions

- i) **Eligible Women** means all widows, divorced women, abandoned women, destitute women having one or more children in the age group of 0-18 years.
- ii) **Eligible children/child** means all children of eligible women/ disabled parents, in the age group of 0-18 years.
- iii) **Eligible person** means a son/daughter, including transgender, in the age group of 18-27 years, of eligible women/ disabled parents.

- iv) **Disabled parents** means both or the single surviving parent, as the case may be, whose permanent disability is 70% or more, and who are/is not capable to take care of their / his/her children in the age group of 0-18.
- v) **Destitute woman** means an unmarried woman who has no relative or kinsmen to support her; or who has no independent and adequate source of livelihood.
- vi) **Abandoned woman** means a woman abandoned by her husband & living separately from her husband for the last 7 years.
- vii) **Widow** means a legally wedded female whose husband has died; or whose husband is missing and not traceable since last seven years (as per report from the concerned police station/ post); and has not remarried.
- viii) **Divorced woman** means woman who is legally separated from her husband.

6. Objectives

Main objectives of the scheme are:-

- i) To foster a sensitive, supportive ecosystem for vulnerable women and children of the State to make them self-reliant in their lives.
- ii) To strengthen child protection at family level and to prevent child abuse, trafficking, teenage marriages, drug abuse etc.
- iii) To provide enabling environment for addressing the nutritional, health and educational needs of eligible children, and to create enabling environment for vulnerable women and children to live with dignity.

7. Eligibility

All such **eligible women, eligible children and eligible persons**, whose family income does not exceed Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One Lakh) per annum from all sources shall be covered under this scheme.

a) Procedure for obtaining the eligibility certificate

- i. The eligible children, eligible persons and eligible women shall apply by filling up the prescribed application form and submit the same to Child Development Project officer of the area where the applicant resides. The Child Development

Project Officer shall verify the application as per the required documents and shall forward the application to the District Programme Officer concerned for approval.

- ii. The following documents shall be uploaded/submitted along with the application form:-
 - a. Bonafide Himachali Certificate.
 - b. Income Certificate.
 - c. Proof of Date of Birth (10th class certificate/ Birth Certificate).
 - d. Proof of Death of father / Spouse / copy of FIR and report regarding non-traceability for last 7 years in case of missing husband.
 - e. Medical certificate declaring disability (permanent) 70% or above.
 - f. Proof of divorce if applicable.
 - g. Copy of parivar register.
 - h. Report of concerned BDO/ EO Municipal Committee/ Nagar Panchayat/ Commissioner/ Joint Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, as the case may be, declaring destitute and abandoned women.
- iii. The District Programme Officer of the concerned district shall issue the eligibility certificate on yearly basis to eligible beneficiaries for the purpose of availing the benefits under Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojna after checking the required documentation and eligibility criteria under the said scheme. The eligibility certificate shall be valid for one year only.

8. Benefits under the scheme

A. Financial Assistance

All eligible children/ child of eligible women and disabled parents shall be entitled to a monthly grant of rupees one thousand for their educational, health and nutritional need, till they attain the age of 18 years.

Provided that if any child gets sponsorship under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme of Govt of India or any other State Scheme, then he/she shall be entitled to get only one benefit from any of the State Schemes/ Govt of India schemes.

i) **Procedure for claiming Financial Assistance**

- a. The Child Development Project Officer shall prepare age wise list of all eligible children to whom the eligibility certificate has been issued by the Department.
- b. The Child Development Project Officer shall prepare the demand of funds and submit the same to the District Programme Officer.
- c. The District Programme Officer shall prepare the demand of funds of the concerned District in consultation with concerned District Child Protection Officer and submit the same to Director, Women and Child Development.
- d. The Director, Women and Child Development shall approve the funds and allocate it to the concerned District Programme Officer.
- e. District Programme Officer shall be the sanctioning authority and the DDO at the District level. He/ She shall sanction and deposit the funds into joint account of child and mother/ disabled parent and share the list of beneficiaries with the concerned CDPOs.

B. Educational Assistance

All eligible children / eligible persons shall get free education, after securing admission in any undergraduate/ postgraduate degree/ diploma courses, PhD, all professional courses like JBT, NTT, nursing, vocational courses etc. offered by Government-run educational Institutions/ Universities/ Colleges situated in the State of Himachal Pradesh. Course fee, hostel fee and mess charges (if hostel is run by the government institution) of such eligible children/ persons shall be borne by the State Government. Further, priority will be given to eligible children/ persons in admissions to hostels run by the concerned government institutions. If the hostel is not available, then rent/ PG charges @ Rs. 3000/- per month per child shall be provided.

i) **Procedure for claiming educational assistance**

Institutions of State Government:

- a) After getting admission in a course in any State Government run Institutions through prescribed channel, eligible children/persons shall

submit eligibility certificate to the concerned institution for claiming exemption in course fee, hostel fee and mess charges.

- b). The institution shall not demand the course fee, hostel fee and mess charges from the candidate having eligibility certificate. The Head of the Institution shall submit consolidated demand of course fee, hostel fee, and mess charges of admitted eligible children/persons to the District Programme Officer of the concerned District where the institute is situated.
- c) On the basis of the demand of District Programme Officer, Director, Women and Child Development shall sanction and release the funds to the concerned District Programme Officer who shall release the funds to the institute.

Institutions of Central Government:

- a) After getting admission in a course in any Central Government educational Institution situated in the State through prescribed channel, eligible children/persons shall submit eligibility certificate to the concerned institution for claiming exemption in course fee, hostel fee and mess charges.
- b) The Institution shall not demand course fee, hostel fee and mess charges from the candidate having eligibility certificate. The Head of the Institution shall submit consolidated demand of course fee, hostel fee, and mess charges of admitted eligible children/persons to the District Programme Officer of the concerned District where the institute is situated.
- c) On the basis of the demand of District Programme Officer, Director, Women and Child Development shall sanction and release the funds to the concerned District Programme Officer who shall release the funds to the Institute.

9. **Development of IT Portal:** An online portal shall be developed for the scheme by the Directorate of Women and Child Development. Fund provisions for development of IT

Portal and administrative expenditure shall be made under this scheme, along with other financial liabilities including providing/hiring of IT consultant and support staff. After development of IT Portal, all eligible women, children and persons shall apply through this portal to avail the benefits of this scheme.

10. Power to amend and /or relax/ repeal any other provisions of the Scheme

- (i) Notwithstanding anything contained in any of the provisions of this Scheme, the State Government may at any time:
 - a) Make any amendment to this Scheme or repeal it.
 - b) Make any relaxation in applying the provisions of this Scheme on the merits of each case, as the State Government may consider necessary and appropriate.
 - c) Impose any condition in addition to the provision of this Scheme on the merits of each case, as the State Government may consider necessary and appropriate.
- (ii) In case, there is any issue of interpretation/ implementation in the process of repeal of the Scheme mentioned below, the Secretary (SJ&E), Government of Himachal Pradesh is authorized to resolve the issue in consultation with concerned department(s).

11. Repeals and savings:

Mother Teresa Asahaay Matri Sambal Yojna (Amended), 2009 and notified by the Govt. vide Notification No. SJE(A)10-2/2006 dated 29/05/2009 is hereby repealed provided that any action taken or any direction/ instructions issued under the provision of the said scheme prior to the notification of this scheme shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provision of this scheme, shall be deemed to have been taken or issued under the provision of this scheme.

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Application Form for eligibility certificate under Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojna

Photograph

1. Name of applicant _____
2. Father's/ Husband Name _____, Date of Death _____
3. Mother's Name _____
4. Permanent Home Address of applicant
Village _____ Post Office _____
Pin Code _____
Panchayat _____ Tehsil _____
District _____
5. Date of birth of the applicant _____
6. Aadhar No. _____
7. Bank Detail of applicant;
Account no (Aadhar seeded) _____
IFSC code & _____
Name of branch _____

Date:-

Signature of the Applicant

Following documents are required to be enclosed along with application form as applicable to the applicant :-

- a. Bonafide Himachali Certificate.
- b. Income Certificate.
- c. Proof of Date of Birth (10th class certificate/ Birth Certificate).
- d. Proof of Death of father / Spouse / copy of FIR and report regarding non-traceability for last 7 years in case of missing husband.
- e. Medical certificate declaring disability (permanent) 70% or above.
- f. Proof of divorce if applicable.
- g. Copy of parivar register.
- h. Report of concerned BOD/ EO Municipal Committee/ Nagar Panchayat/ Commissioner/ Joint Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, as the case may be, declaring destitute and abandoned women.

Certificate to declare eligibility

(only for the purpose of providing benefits under Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojna)

Certified that master/Mr./Ms./ Mrs. _____ S/o/ |

D/o/ W/o Sh. _____

R/o _____

born on _____ (DOB) is eligible for the purpose of receiving benefits under Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojna.

This certificate is valid from the date of issue till one year only subject to renewal.

Certificate No. _____

Date of issue:- _____

Signature

District Programme Officer

District _____

Dated: _____

(Handwritten mark)