

## **EKAL NAREE SHAKTI SANGATHAN HIMACHAL PRADESH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023.**

### **01. BASIC INFORMATION**

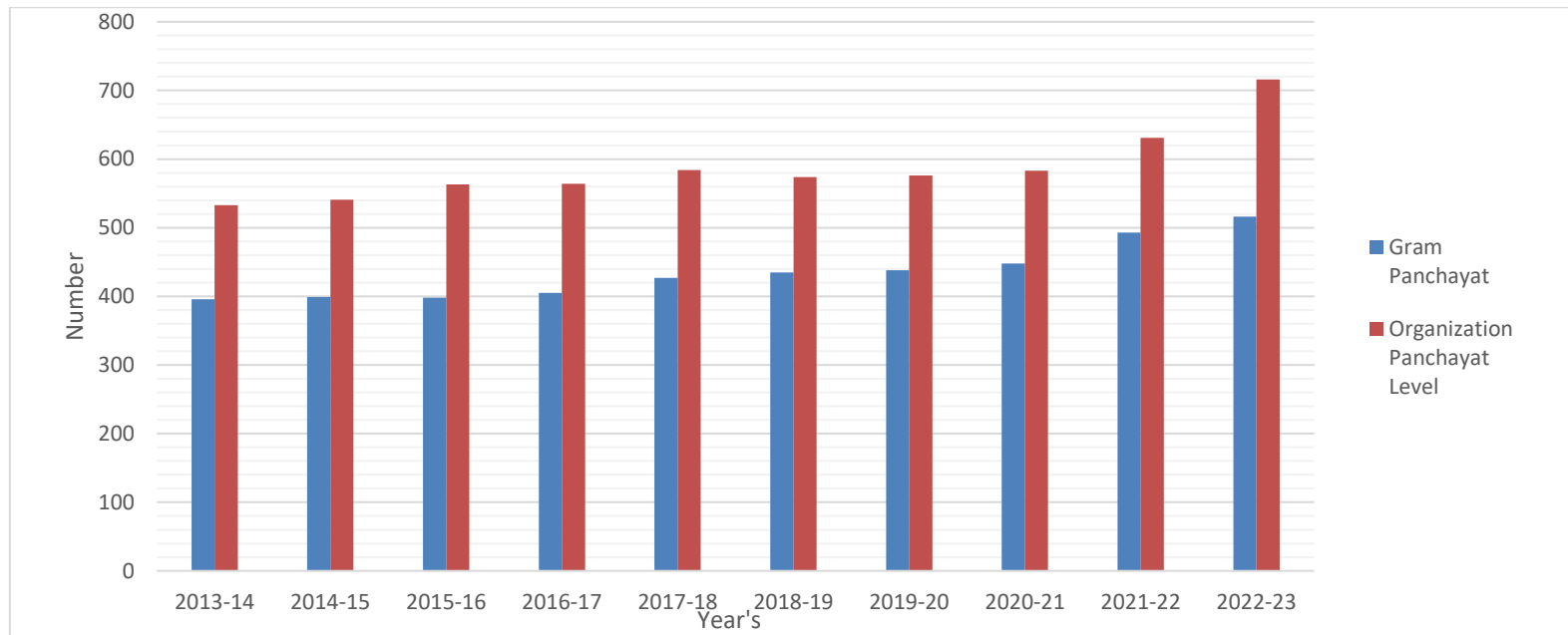
	AREA OF OPERATION-MEMBERSHIP	2021-22	2022-23
01	DISTRICTS	07	07
02	DEVELOPMENTAL BLOCKS	21	21
03	GRAM PANCHAYATS	493	516
04	GRAM PANCHAYAT LEVEL UNITS	631	716
05	TOTAL MEMBERS	17,095	17,829
06	MEMBERS FROM GENERAL CASTES	11,006	10,935
07	DALIT MEMBERS	6089	6,894

**02. PROVIDING SUPPORT TO MEMBERS TO ACCESS GOVERNMENT AND OTHER FACILITIES/BENEFITS**

Social Security Pension Forms: number of applications made:	245
Approval of Applications:	150
Mother TeresaMatrutuwa Sambal Yojana: Application:	153
Applications Approved:	22
Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojana: Applications made:	137
Applications approved:	13
Support from District Administration for marriage of daughters of Single Women:	05
Prdhan Mantri Kisan Yojana:	12
Inclusion within BPL List:	26
Benefits availed:	26
Repair of houses:	10
Support from Temple Trust for marriage of daughters of Single Women:	12
Applied for Sewing Machine:	97
approved:	09
HIMCARE Health Insurance:	690
Employment under MGNAREGA:	952
Employment gained for Single Women (for peripheral jobs) :	27
Donation towards expenses for cremation of Single Women:	30

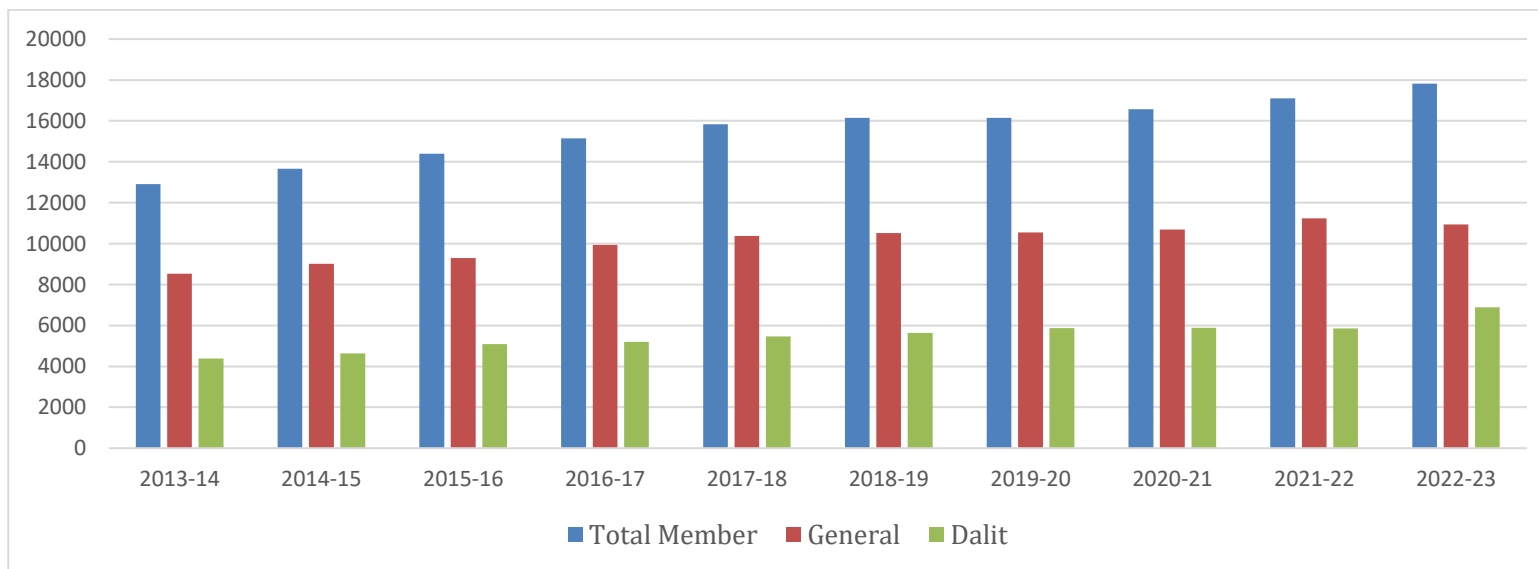
### Progress over a Decade – Geographical spread

Sr. No.	Year	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Level Organizations
1	2013-14	396	533
2	2014-15	399	541
3	2015-16	398	563
4	2016-17	405	564
5	2017-18	427	584
6	2018-19	435	574
7	2019-20	438	576
8	2020-21	448	583
9	2021-22	493	631
10	2022-23	516	716



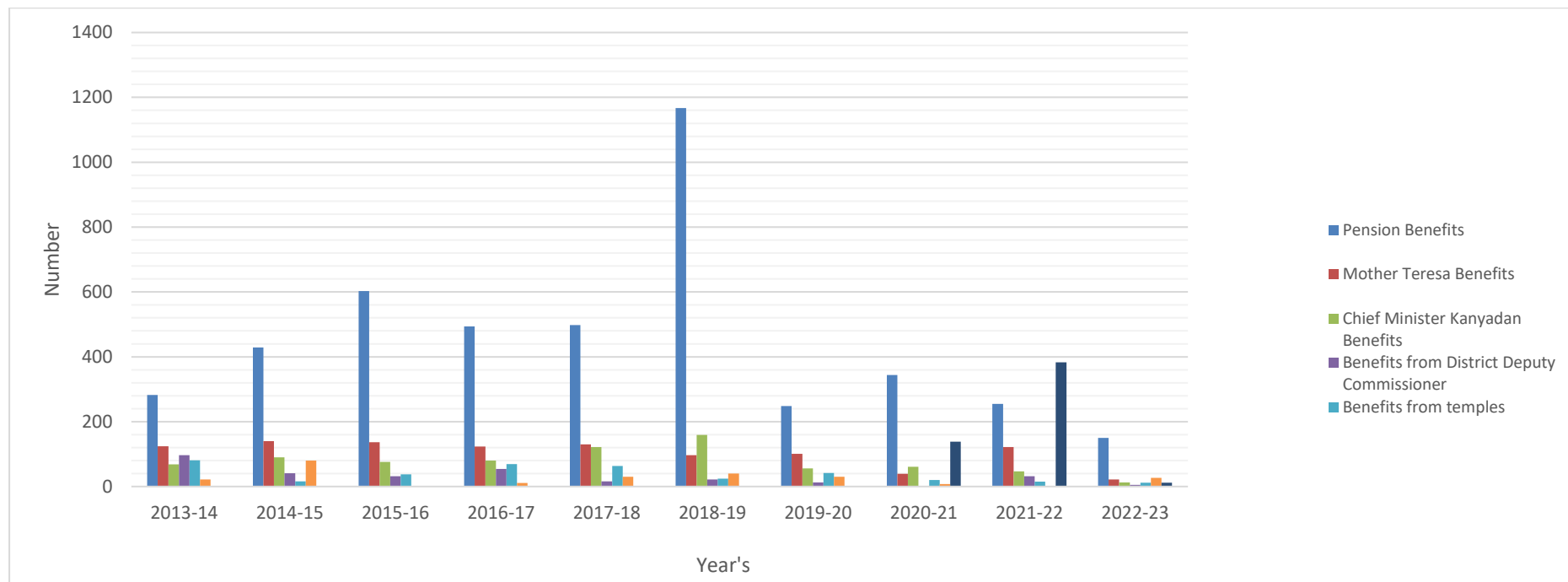
### Progress over a Decade – Membership

Sr. No.	Year	Total Member	General	Dalit
1	2013-14	12911	8529	4382
2	2014-15	13658	9021	4637
3	2015-16	14391	9296	5095
4	2016-17	15140	9940	5200
5	2017-18	15833	10370	5463
6	2018-19	16149	10515	5634
7	2019-20	16149	10549	5870
8	2020-21	16566	10682	5884
9	2021-22	17095	11237	5858
10	2022-23	17829	10935	6894



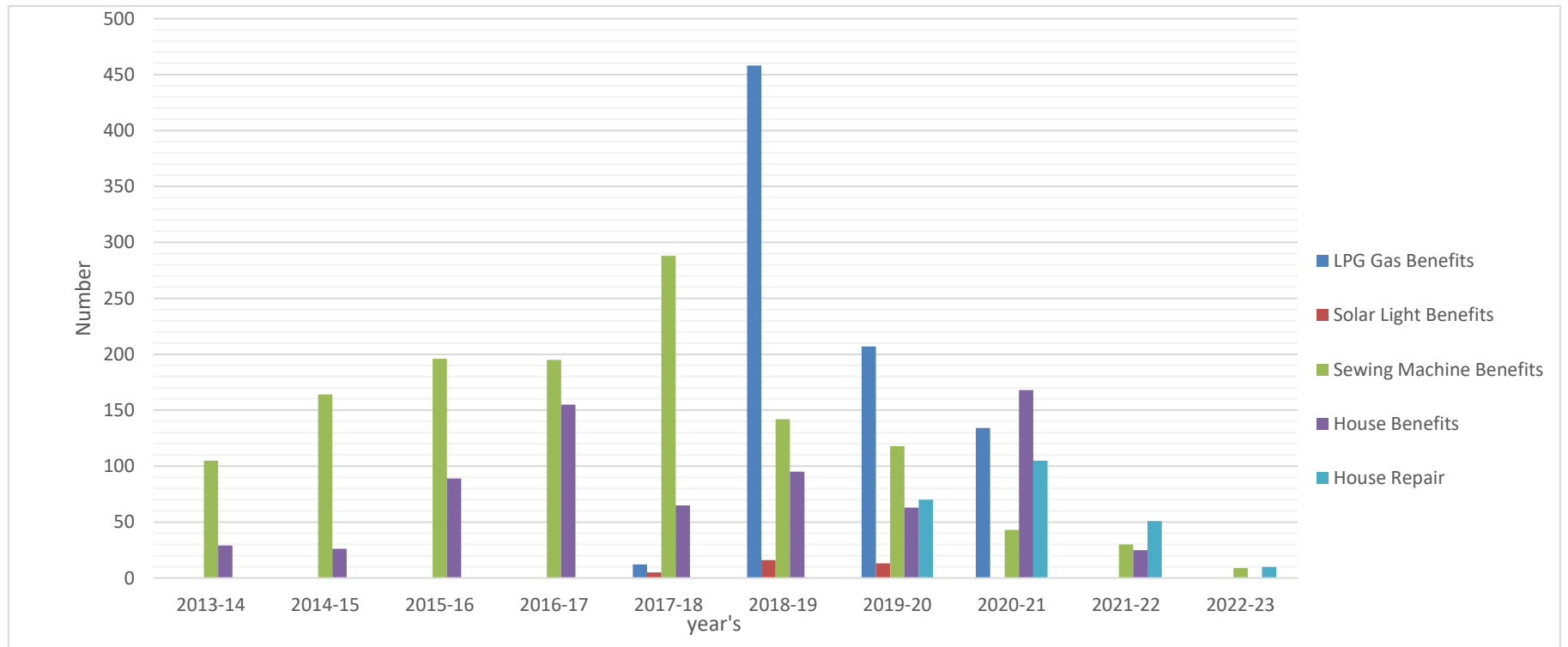
### Progress over a Decade – Cash based Benefits

Year	Pension Benefits	Mother Teresa Benefits	Chief Minister Kanyadan Benefits	Benefits from District Deputy Commissioner	Benefits from temples	Job	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana Benefits
2013-14	282	124	68	97	81	22	–
2014-15	429	140	90	41	16	80	–
2015-16	603	137	76	32	38	–	–
2016-17	494	123	80	54	69	11	–
2017-18	498	130	122	16	63	30	–
2018-19	1167	97	159	22	24	40	–
2019-20	248	101	56	13	42	30	–
2020-21	344	39	61	–	20	8	138
2021-22	255	122	47	32	15		383
2022-23	150	22	13	05	12	27	12



### Progress over a Decade- Facility Based Benefits

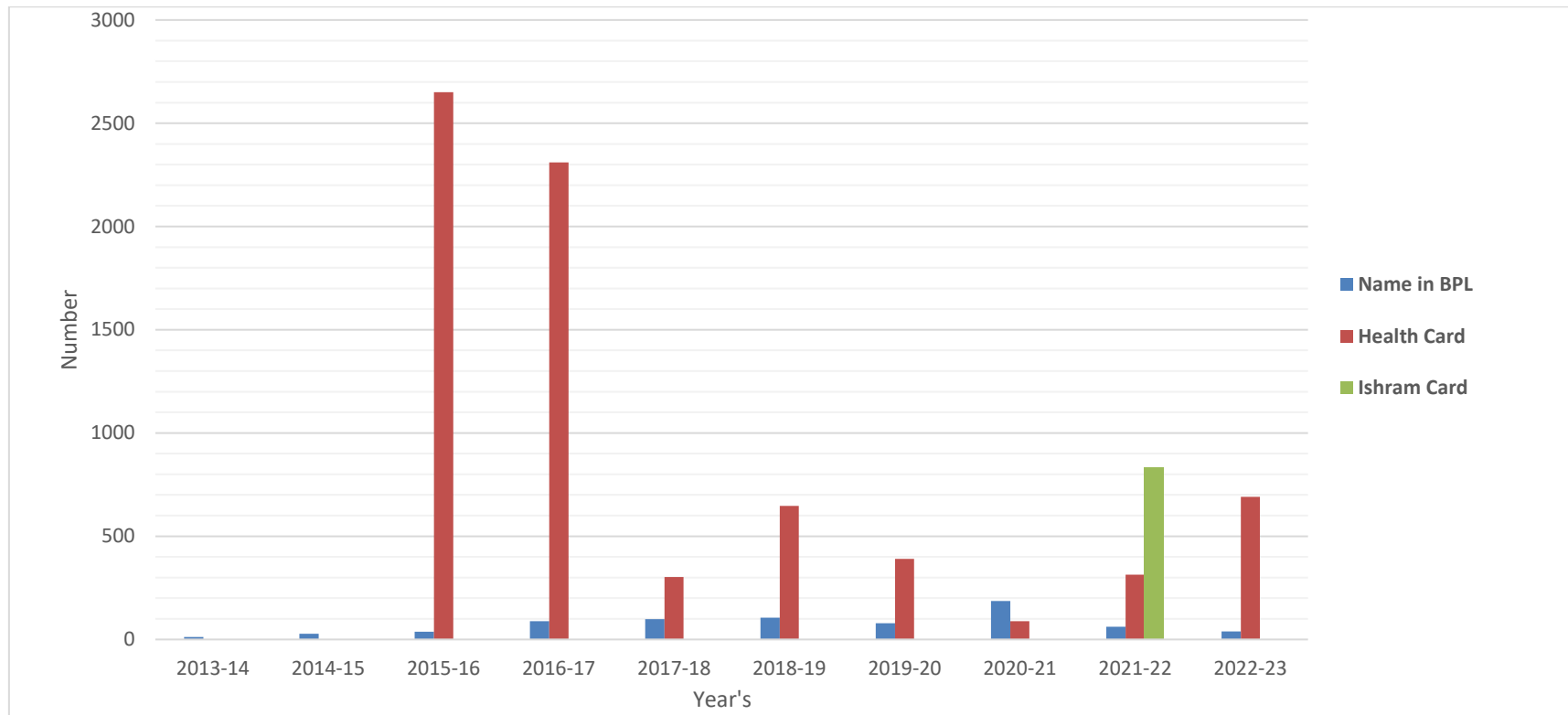
Year	LPG Gas Benefits	Solar Light Benefits	Sewing Machine Benefits	House Benefits	House Repair
2013-14	–	–	105	29	–
2014-15	–	–	164	26	–
2015-16	–	–	196	89	–
2016-17	–	–	195	155	–
2017-18	12	05	288	65	–
2018-19	458	16	142	95	–
2019-20	207	13	118	63	70
2020-21	134	–	43	168	105
2021-22	–	–	30	25	51
2022-23	–	–	09	–	10





### Progress over a Decade

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name in BPL</b>	<b>Health Card</b>	<b>E-shram Card</b>
2013-14	12	-	-
2014-15	28	-	-
2015-16	37	2650	-
2016-17	89	2310	-
2017-18	98	302	-
2018-19	105	647	-
2019-20	79	390	-
2020-21	186	89	-
2021-22	62	313	833
2022-23	39	690	-



In the year 2018-18, large number of benefits was given to Ekal Narees, due to the upcoming General Elections for the Lok Sabha.

The actual number of benefits availed in the current year (2022-23) is very low: This is because due to implementation of Model Code of conduct prior to the elections of State Legislative Assembly in November 2022 as well as delay in formation of new government. Once the Government formation was over, the pursuance of pending applications were undertaken.

**03. CALENDER OF ACTIVITIES:**

May 2022	Block Field Coordinators' meeting
June 2022	Interface meetings -2; celebration of International Widow Day
July 2022	Block Field Coordinators' meeting;
August 2022	Interface meetings 4; Block Field Coordinators' orientation on proposed MIS Block level quarterly meetings - 2
September 2022	Interface meetings 6; Block level quarterly meetings - 12
October 2022	Block Field Coordinators' Quarterly meeting; Celebration of Karwa Chuath, FGDs for Status Paper – 4; Celebration of Behan Duj
November 2022	Block Field Coordinators' meeting; FGDs for Status Paper –7;
December 2022	Celebration of International Human Rights Day; Leadership training programme for Block level ENSS members- 10; Block level quarterly meeting of ENSS Representatives- 13; Jan Sunawai -2; National Forum for Rights of Single Women- national meeting
January 2023	Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Savitribai Phule; Block Field Coordinators' Quarterly meeting; Livelihood Orientation Programme for ENSS members – 3; Jan Sunawai- 2
February 2023	Training Programme for Block Field Coordinators; Block level ENSS members Training Programme; Celebration of One Billion Rising; Livelihood Orientation Programme for ENSS members-2; Jan Sunawai – 3; Interface Meeting-1;
March 2023	Quarterly meeting of Block Field Coordinators; Livelihood Orientation Programme for ENSS members-4; General Body meeting of Ekal Mahila Vikas Avam Kisan Kalyan Samiti (EMVAKS)—an independent organization of Himachal ENSS- held its General Body meeting and elected new Board of Governors; JanSunawai – 4; Interface meeting – 1; State level ENSS Meet;

## OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES



- Dispute Resolution: Domestic violence cases successfully resolved: 23
- Donation of land and house: In the village Sahami, Block Nanudan, District Hamirpur, a family decided to donate its ancestral property (land and house) to Ekal Naree Shakti Sangathan. The team of block level coordinators visited the site and decided to accept the donation. The process of actual donation deed shall be undertaken in near future.
- During KOVID and Lack down period, a total of Rs 40,000/- was distributed as a loan to 8 women (raised through crowd funding). It has been recovered and revolved and Rs 35,000/- has been given as a loan. Number of total women benefitted: 17. Rs 5,000/- is available with ENSS. (the loan amount for each woman member is Rs 5,000/-)
- MIS development took place during this period. After testing, revisions were made and by end of March 2022, total of 1,920 forms were filled and data compounded.
- Generation of Funds through enrolling Support Members: A total of 62 Support members with contribution of Rs 600/- per annum has been done. More vigorous efforts are underway to achieve a target of 100
- ENSS prepared a Manifesto for the elections of the State Legislative Assembly and formed a delegation to visit HQ of various political parties. The response was as follow:
  - ✓ Bharatiya Janata party : Very lukewarm
  - ✓ National Congress Party: heard patiently and assured to include major demands into their Manifesto
  - ✓ Aam Adami Party: Heard carefully and assured of full support
  - ✓ Rashtriya Devbhoomi Party: Heard carefully and assured of full



support

- ✓ Some Independent candidates also assured the support.
- A rally was organised against rising prices of essential commodities at Dharmshala and a memorandum was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner with a request to forward the same.
- An email, congratulating and seeking their support for the ENSS was send to all the newly elected members of Himachal Legislative Assembly
- In Dharmpur Development Block, a widow's daughter was suffering with kidney infection and treatment expenses was around Rs 8,00,000/-. Members took up the cause and approached the local Legislative members (MLA) who donated Rs 5,00,000/- from MLA Fund and rest of the expenses were met through HIMCARE Insurance.
- Many single women faced cattle loss due to Lumpy infections. The ENSS approached the Hon Chief Minister and also the Chief Secretary for compensation. A total of 90 women received the compensation of Rs 30,000/- each.
- 18 children of single women from Dharmpur Block receive a monthly educational scholarship from Flying Angle Charitable Trust Switzerland. We have also started organising quarterly meetings of these children and kids are given information on Constitutional Rights and obligations.
- Formation of Self-Help Groups: initiative was taken to help single women to have independent access to finance either for initiating income generation activities or to mitigate emergency needs. 2 more groups formed. Total 4 groups are functional.



## MEETINGS:

### QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF BLOCK COORDINATORS:



Total 6 meetings were held. Major issues/topics discussed during these meetings include:

- Taking stock of work done in the previous quarter and planning for the next quarter
- Training was undertaken on filing the MIS form
- Discussion regarding how to make ENSS visible – not only through print and local electronic media- but also in public.

#### 1. BLOCK LEVEL MEETINGS OF ENSS MEMBERS:

- A total of 48 meetings were organised (it was difficult to organise few meetings during the model code imposed by the Election Commission of India). Total participation was 1290. Major topics discussed during these meetings include:
  - How to strengthen the local ENSS –sharing of responsibilities
  - Women were expressed their happiness as 'such gatherings' as these happened after the COVID and Lock Down phase (which was very depressing for many)
  - Few issues emerged: non-availability of ration cards to the women who are staying at their parental home (due to dispute at matrimonial home / applied for divorce) and support under Mother Teresa Matrutuva Sambal Yojana for the children of these women; divorce



cases are pending in the court and during this period there was no support from anyone; they are not even eligible for social security pension (once a woman applies for divorce, she is a person non-grata)

- We included new gram Panchayats as a part of the expansion women from these Panchayats were given orientation on ENSS whilst the older Gram Panchayat level units are taking up responsibilities for coordinating the field activities.
- Dissemination of information and procedures on various government schemes was done
- Prevention of Domestic Violence (DV) Act was discussed and relevant info was given
- Many women expressed the pain on losing their cattle due to Lumpy Infection. Relevant info was given for filing a claim for compensation.
- Information on HIMCARE Health Insurance Schemes was given and women were encouraged to enrol for the same.
- Single women who were homebound, have started occupying public spaces which is giving them courage to express their pain and happiness
- Information was given on upcoming elections for the State Legislative Assembly and how and what dialogue they should hold with the people who approach them for the 'vote'.
- Certain cases of Domestic violence were also reported and agreed upon that collectively the ENSS shall try to resolve the same.

#### 04. INTERFACE MEETINGS WITH FRONT LINE GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND PANCHAYAT MEMBERS.



##### OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Create awareness amongst the Front-line government functionaries and Gram Panchayat members regarding various issues (social and economic) faced by Single Women
- ✓ Create a platform for the dialogue between ENSS members and Front Line Government functionaries and Gram Panchayat Members
- ✓ Motivate the Front Line government functionaries and Gram Panchayat Members to initiate active support to Single Women
- 15 meetings took place in which 406 women participated- Participation of ASHA worker, Anganwadi worker and their Supervisors, Local Revenue Officers (Patwaris), Local Agriculture Extension Officers, Members of Gram Panchayat, Block Development Committees and Zila Parishad was commendable.
- The front line staff got introduced with the new members of ENSS
- Front line staff also gave information regarding various schemes for women in general and for single women in particular
- Procedural difficulties women face during availing these schemes were discussed in details and some solutions were given
- Anganwadi workers who are also single women are coming forward to join the local ENSS
- Discussion was held on enrolling the support members – some of the participants readily agreed and paid their contribution
- Formation of Self Groups to support women to undertake economic activities or to meet emergencies was also discussed and at many places women agreed to form SHGs
- Gram Panchayat members agreed to give priority for solving any difficulties / issues faced by the Single Women as well as motivate other members to do the same.



## 05.STATE-LEVEL MEETING OF THE ENSS



Every year, the ENSS organises its Annual Meeting at Shimla to take stock of the work done, to plan for the future as well as to hold public dialogue with various State level officials.

The State level Meeting was organised on March 29-30, 2023.

There were few new members who were acquainted with the procedures of Annual Meeting.

This meeting was blessed by the Hon Minister for Women and Child Development, Govt of Himachal Pradesh Col (rtd) Dhani Ram Shandil. He assured all the support of the new government to ENSS. He also announced a cash donation of Rs 21,000/- to ENSS to carry forward its mission.

Following State level Officials attended and addressed the delegation:

- Deputy Director, WCD, Govt of H.P.
- Advocate (Ms) Ambika Kotwal
- From Police Department – Superintendent at HQ, Shimla and senior Sub-Inspector
- Ms Jainab Chandel- President Himachal Mahila Congress Party
- Ms Shagun Malhotra, Consultant (gender) World Bank New Delhi
- Director SUTRA H.P.

The National Congress Party had announced in its Election Manifesto that each Himachali Woman would be paid Rs 1500/- per month as a compensation towards her unpaid work. The question that was raised: whether for single women this amount would be additional to their current Social Security Pension? The ENSS pleaded with the Hon Minister, not to merge this with their social security pension.

## 06. TRAINING – CAPACITY BUILDING



Two different trainings/capacity building programmes were conducted for the ENSS members, apart from regular capacity building of Block level Field Coordinators during quarterly meetings.

### **Gender Sensitization ForBlock-level ENSS Members**

2 training programmes were organised, total participation 49

- ✓ During this training programme, women were explained how social construction of gender takes place and how it impacts women in general and single women in particular.
- ✓ Social differential treatment to girls and boys – women were asked to remember how and when did they first experienced such discrimination – large number of women spoke about their childhood when they felt that their parents have discriminated them vis-a-vis their brothers. Drawing from these memories participants were explained how patriarchy plays across the caste, religion and region.
- ✓ One of the result from such discriminatory treatment was women themselves start presuming that they are lesser human beings. Once this feelings gets saturated, women's all behaviour and thinking turns 'men' as superior human beings and women start losing their 'izzat'.
- ✓ Equality is an essential component of civilization which is destroyed by patriarchal system of socio-economic-political governance.
- ✓ Thus, if women want to get 'equal' treatment, they must first start respecting themselves, in other words, 'unless you respect yourself, no one is going to respect you' is the mantra.
- ✓ Various role plays and games were conducted to grill this and



participants very enthusiastically participated in these role plays and games.

- ✓ This gave them lot of confidence and we hope they would start practicing non-discriminatory social governance within their families and would resist if they feel there is deferential treatment. This should also help them to overcome certain social stigmas Single Women face.

### **Leadership Development Training Programmes:**

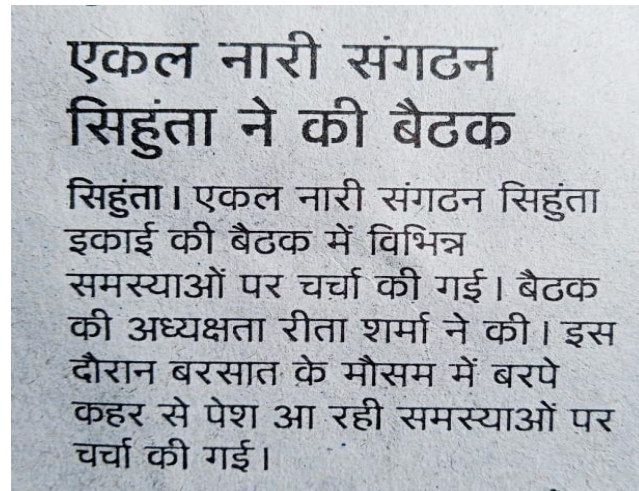
14 one day Leadership Training Programmes were organised for Block level ENSS members. 320 women participated.

- To begin with women asked to name their maternal grandmother or paternal one. Very few women could name. This showed how women were wiped out of memories – why such thing happens? This question made many participants to start reflecting their own life.
- The participants were asked to pair up and share a memory of happiness and another memory that gave them lot of pain.
- **Followings were memories of 'happiness'**
  - a. When my adult children handed over their earnings to me
  - b. Mother was very loving and husband was very supportive
  - c. My children obey all my orders
  - d. I am physically very strong and undertake various domestic / agricultural activities

#### **Memories of 'pain'**

- a. Loss of husband, loss of adult son
- b. Due to poverty was not able to continue education
- c. Husband was in relationship with his elder sister-in-law

A role play was organised to identify various restrictions that



women face from childhood to current age.

Women came out with large number of restrictions. After identifying these restrictions, its impact was discussed and women realised that majority of these restrictions were aimed at restricting their mobility. By restricting mobility, how self growth was impacted was discussed in details.

To become a good leader, a woman has to first overcome these restrictions and undertake mobility was emphasised. Participants listed qualities of 'good leader'. They also realised that to overcome these restrictions they need to develop collectives and collective strength so that various issues that single women face could be tackled. They then, discussed ways and means to achieve the same.

During the feedback, almost all women told that they have gained lot of confidence and would now on, they would work towards developing other women and through collective strength, they would bring newer dimensions to ENSS.



## 07. JAN SUNAWAIS:



The major aim of these Jan Sunawais was to create a platform where officers from various department at Block level / Sub divisional level/ district level interact with single women and give hearing to various issues these women face. Many such issues are resolved on the spot and few needed follow-up.

Jan Sunawais were held in 16 Development Blocks where 517 women participated.

At many places Deputy Commissioner of the district participated, at some places Sub-divisional Officer (Civil) participated and at some places block Development Officer, District Welfare Officer participated.


Large number of petty issues was solved on the spot such as grant-in-aid for construction of house under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, demarcation of land, non availability of social security pension, non-issue of Himachali certificate.



Issues that were needed follow-up: long pending divorce cases (which is not under the jurisdiction of these officers), land dispute (as other party has gone for civil case)



A woman told the Officers that her husband is absconding for last 20 years and his whereabouts are not known. She was advised to file an FIR and once that is done; her case for social security pension could be dealt with.

## CELEBRATIONS:

To bring joy and happiness by celebrating certain days, collectively, is a core activity of ENSS. This serves two major purposes: one it brings women together and helps them to 'laugh' and 'dance' by occupying public spaces to feel relaxed from daily hazards and deprivations; secondly it gives visibility to ENSS and helps to undertake media advocacy. Majority of these celebrations were covered by print as well as local electronic media. The celebration of BehanaDuj challenges age-old practice of patriarchal celebration of Bhैया Duj (that indicates women's dependence on their brothers) and creates bonds between and amongst Single Women.

	EVENT	PARTICIPATION -NARATION
01	<b>International Day of Widows</b> 	<p>Celebrated in 13 development, 131 women participated. Many new members were totally unaware about this Day and once they realised that, Widowhood is also worth of celebration – and is celebrated Internationally, they felt very happy and proud.</p>
02	<b>Celebration of women centric Karawa Chauth</b>	<p>8 development blocks, 87 women wearing full costumes participated. The patriarchy wants this celebration to show wife's dedication to her husband, therefore widows were barred from this festival. By celebrating this, Single Women declared their resolve to decorate themselves, feel good about their body and enjoy each other's company.</p>

		
03	<b>International Human Rights Day</b> 	3 Development blocks, 52 women participated. As this Day has been appropriated by the government agencies, most of the women participated at Anganwadi level.
04	<b>BehanaDuj</b> 	<p>10 development blocks, 132 women participated. By tying friendship bond with each other, women decided to keep this relationship alive. This celebration was in response to Bhaiya Duj, through which patriarchy wants women to subjugate to their 'brothers'. So instead of getting subjugated to 'brothers' women decided to develop friendship bond amongst themselves, assuring each other that 'I am here, whenever you need'.</p> <p>This celebration was initiated by ENSS Himachali and now almost all state level ENSS also celebrate it.</p>
05	<b>Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Savitri Bai Phule – a first women teacher from OBC (1860s)</b>	10 Gram Panchayats, 236 women participated, they learned the struggle put by Savitri Bai Phule as a teacher for girls and support rendered by her husband, who himself was a great Social Reformer.

		
06	<b>One Billion Rising</b>	10 Development Blocks, 441 women participated
07	<b>International Day of Women</b> 	15 Gram Panchayats- 664 women participated. In rest of the Panchayats it was jointly celebrated with Anaganwadi workers

## 08. PREPARATIONS FOR STATUS PAPER ON ENSS



As per the decision of last Annual General Body Meeting, a consultant was appointed to prepare Status Paper on ENSS and way Forward. For this purpose, 14 FGDs were conducted at various Block levels. Ms Nirmal, State Coordinator, Interns from TISS, Mumbai and local Block Field Workers were involved.

## 09. INTERNSHIP:



Students from various Institutes of Social Work have done their Internship, learning various aspects of the life of Single Women and the multifaceted issues/problems they face.



Name of Institute	No of Students	Date
SP Jain Institute of Management and Research Mumbai	04	10-03-2022 to 08-04-2022
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati	07	May 09, 2022 to June 03, 2022
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	04	May 31, 2022 to June 16, 2022
Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi	05	August 25 to Sept. 24, 2022
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	03	Sept. 26, 2022 to Oct. 26, 2022
Azim Premji University, Bengaluru	01	Nov. 22, 2022 to Jan 13, 2022
Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information Technology Gandhi Nagar	04	Dec 17, 2022 to Jan 13, 2023.
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla	03	Jan 16, 2023 to Feb 16, 2023.

## 10. PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL FORUM FOR RIGHTS OF SINGLE WOMEN



After the COVID and Lockdown period, the meeting of the Forum was organised at ASTHA, Udaipur in December 2022. 17 representatives of 7 State Units of Single Women participated. Elections for the President and Officer Bearers were conducted. Ms Nirmal was re-elected as President.

Each State gave information about their activities. Detailed discussion was held on impact of COVID and Lock Down period. The common feelings expressed by the Representatives were that the Lock down period was very depressing and it had drained out the energy. Reorganising the ENSS was, initially quite difficult. In many states, members kept in touch with each other through smart phones, but such devices were not available with everyone.

The Resource person Prof (Ms) Sudha Chaudhary gave in detail the difference between Hindu and Hindutwa. How Hindutwa is based on perceived 'social / cultural insecurity' resulting into hatred towards 'other religion'. This also camouflages economic inequality that has bread through liberalisation and privatization of public resources. Its effects on women in general and on single women in particular were explained in detail by Prof. Chaudhary.

## 11. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER MEETINGS / EVENTS – TO STRENGTHEN NETWORKING



- ✓ Ms Shagun Melhotra, Consultant World Bank (ex-staff of SUTRA) needed help in organising FGDs with women to study the gender impact of four-laning of a highway, which was done.
- ✓ WADA Na TODO ABHIYAN organised the meeting to get feed-back on vaccination for COVID – ENSS participated. The meeting also discussed various strategies to dissemination of information and motivating people / communities to go for vaccination.
- ✓ National Meeting of WADA Na TODO ABHIYAN was organised on 26 May 2022; at Delhi. The meeting reviewed the promises made and fulfilled by the Federal Government.
- ✓ Desh ki Baat (Rozgar Abhiyan) organised a daylong meeting on unemployment and initiating community based action to motivate government to create more employment opportunities for people. ENSS participated in the meeting and gave its inputs. (June 12, 2022)
- ✓ A zoom meeting was organised by WADA Na TODO ABHIYAN on Sustainable Development Goals on Jan 01, 2022
- ✓ Mountain Forum Himalaya of which ENSS and SUTRA are members, organised a meeting at Dehradun on Sept. 08, 2022. The Forum has decided to re-initiate its activities in Himachal Pradesh and sought support from ENSS-SUTRA. We readily agreed to provide all the assistance they needed.
- ✓ On October 27, 2022 Mountain Forum Himalaya organised an on-line orientation programme on 'How to conduct Village level surveys'. ENSS members learned a good deal on the subject.
- ✓ A meeting was organised on SDG at Shimla by the Women & Child Development Dept. Government of Himachal Pradesh. The major objective was Gender equality and Reduction in women's poverty through sustainable economic activities. 2 Representatives of the ENSS

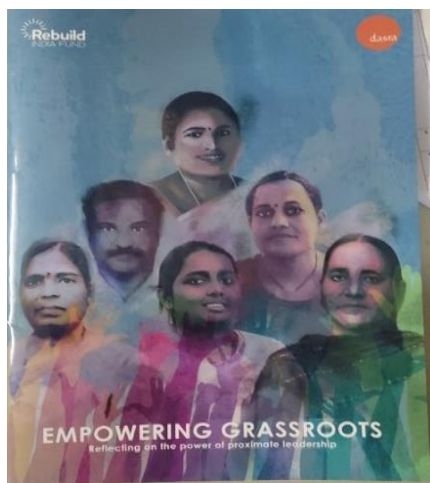


participated.

- ✓ A 10 day training workshop was organised on how to make short videos and films by using smart phones by Jai Hind Project Dehradun . Two members of ENSS participated. Venue: Dehradun.
- ✓ ENSS participated in a Interstate level meeting of NGOs organised by VANI at Dehradun on November 09, 2022.
- ✓ SUTRA / ENSS is a member of District level Review Committee on Welfare of SC/STs, formed by Government of Himachal Pradesh. Regular meetings are held and representative of SUTRA-ENSS participate and gives her inputs.



## 12. MAJOR ACHIVEMENTS



The year began after long spell of COVID and related Lock Down period. This period was very depressing for all as well as it also opened up some new opportunities. This was also the first year of APPI Grant-in-Aid programme. So reorganising ENSS, reenergising took some time. Due to elections to the State legislative Assembly, nearly a quarter of a year had low activities due to Implementation of Model Code of Conduct as well as formation of new government led by National Congress Party took considerable time. However, organising various celebrations gave new energy to large number of ENSS members. The newly enrolled members enjoyed their newfound occasions of celebrations. Apart from this there were few other notable achievements which include:

- Majority of senior ENSS members are now quite well skilled in organising and participating in online meetings
- ENSS was given COVID Warrior Award for its exceptional work during COVID period and motivating its members to go in for vaccinations
- Mid-day meal cooks at government schools, received enhanced salaries. Their salaries were raised from 2,600/- per month to Rs 3,500/- per month. Please note that large number of single women work as mid-day meal cook.
- ENSS was also in forefront in advocating compensation for the loss of cattle due to Lumpy Infection and the advocacy was successful. A Compensation of Rs. 30,000/- was paid to each of 90 women.
- Eligibility criteria to avail Social Security pension was raised from Rs 35,000/- per annum to Rs 50,000/-.
- ENSS advocated that HIMCARE Insurance period should be of 3 years instead of one year. The Government accepted the demand and now HIMCARE Insurance card is for a period of 3 years.
- Age limit for super senior citizen social security pension was brought down

## 7,000 विधवा और एकल नारियों को घर बनाने के लिए मिलेंगे डेढ़-डेढ़ लाख

महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के माध्यम से वित्तीय सहायता देगी सुक्खू सरकार

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

शिमला। हिमाचल प्रदेश में 7,000 विधवा और एकल नारियों को घर बनाने के लिए डेढ़-डेढ़ लाख रुपये दिए जाएंगे। ये राशि से कम वार्षिक आय वाली महिलाओं के लिए जल्द ही मुख्यमंत्री विधवा एवं एकल नारी आवास योजना शुरू होने जा रही है। महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के माध्यम से सुक्खू सरकार वित्तीय सहायता देगी।

मुख्यमंत्री सुखसिंह सिंह सुक्खू ने बताया कि राज्य सरकार की इस पहल से ऐसी महिलाओं को संवल मिलेगा जो आर्थिक तंगी के कारण अपने आवास का निर्माण करवाने में असमर्थ हैं। इस योजना को मदद से ये महिलाएं अब अपना घर बनाने में सक्षम होंगी। इससे न केवल महिलाओं को रहने के लिए एक सुरक्षित स्थान उपलब्ध होगा अपितु इससे महिलाओं में स्वाभिमान और सशक्तिकरण की भावना भी सुदृढ़ होगी। योजना के तहत निर्मित घरों में बिजली, पानी और अन्य आवश्यक मूलभूत सुविधाएं भी सुनिश्चित की जाएगी।

इस योजना के तहत यह भी सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा कि महिलाओं के पास अपने वैयक्तिक जीवनचर्य के लिए आवश्यक संसाधन उपलब्ध हों। मुख्यमंत्री सुक्खू ने कहा कि यह योजना विधवाओं और एकल नारियों के जीवन स्तर में सुधार लाने और उन्हें समाज में सम्मानित जीवन जीने के लिए आवश्यक सहयोग प्रदान करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल है। इन कमजोर समूहों की आवासीय जरूरतों को पूरा करने के सरकार के प्रयासों से राज्य में समता और सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने में भी मदद मिलेगी।

**हिमाचल प्रदेश में जून से लगना शुरू होंगे बिजली के 28 लाख प्रीपेड स्मार्ट मीटर**

शिमला। हिमाचल प्रदेश में जून से बिजली के 28 लाख प्रीपेड स्मार्ट मीटर लगना शुरू होंगे। परचुरी में रद्द किए गए 1903 करोड़ रुपये के टेंडर को बिजली बोर्ड ने फिर आमंत्रित किया है। पूर्व में निविदाएं नहीं आने से प्रक्रिया को रद्द कर दिया था। अब 11 मई तक इस बाबत आवेदन स्वीकार हैं। इस कार्य के लिए 400 करोड़ को केंद्र सरकार से राशि जारी होगी। रोप राशि को राज्य सरकार वहन करेगी। केंद्र सरकार ने सभी राज्यों को बिजली के पुराने मीटरों को प्रीपेड स्मार्ट मीटरों से बदलने का फैसला किया है। राजधानी शिमला और स्मार्ट सिटी धर्मशाला में पावरग्रिड प्रोजेक्ट के तहत स्मार्ट मीटर लगाने का काम लगभग पूरा हो चुका है। शिमला में 280 प्रीपेड मीटर भी लगाए गए हैं।

पूर्व में लगाए गए स्मार्ट मीटरों को नई व्यवस्था के तहत बदला नहीं जाएगा। इन मीटरों को रीफैब्रिकर के माध्यम से प्रीपेड मीटर जाएगा। प्रीपेड मीटरों को रिचार्ज किया जाएगा। रिचार्ज खर्च सभी गुल हो जाएगा। प्रीपेड मीटर सुविधा लेने वाली को ऊर्जा तीन पौंसदी कम लागेगा।

इस सुविधा से बिजली उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ होगा। खासकर ऐसे लोगों को जो लंबे समय के लिए घरों से दूर जाते हैं। घर से लंबे समय के लिए नहीं जाने पर बिजली बिलों को कोई परेशानी नहीं होगी। घर लौटने पर ये रोप रहे रिचार्ज के बिजली यूनिट इलेमाल कर सकेंगे। इन मीटरों को स्थापित करने के बाद बिजली बोर्ड को भी उपभोक्ताओं से बिल न देने की शिकायतें दूर हो जाएंगी। इससे रिकवरी का इंडेक्स भी खत्म हो जाएगा। प्रीपेड सुविधा नहीं लेने वाले उपभोक्ताओं को पहले से जारी बिल जमा करवाने की सविधा भी मिलती रहनी। यहां

from 70 years to 60 years

- At many places, women who have lost their husband have started attending the meeting within 2-3 months. According to age old custom, such women were not allowed to occupy public spaces for atleast 6 months, in some forward castes this period of seclusion was 12 months. These women are breaking this custom.