

VCFS Guidelines (Revised)

Village Convergence & Facilitation Service (VCFS) under NMEW Scheme for 12th Plan

1. Coverage:

Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS) will be provided at Gram Panchayat level in selected gender critical/high burden districts to generate awareness on issues related to women, regarding various schemes/programmes of the Central/State Government and mobilize the community to create demand and access/avail such services. For the first year the service will be provided in at least 10 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in each of the selected districts. The service will then cover another 10 GPs (in the same district) in the next year and another set of GPs during the following year. Thus, the services under VCFS will not be static in nature and is conceived to cover the entire district in a phased manner during the 12th Plan period. In case the selected VCFS district is common with Purna Shakti Kendra (PSK) district, the Gram Panchayats selected for VCFS should not be the same as under PSK.

An amount of Rs 1.92 lakh has been allocated for project activity in each Gram Panchayat annually. The identification of districts/locations for the coverage under this service will be done in consultation with State Govt. /District Collector (DC/DM)/District Task Force under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme of the respective district selected.

At the GP level, Village Coordinators/Volunteers may be engaged who would be educated women from the local community. The primary role will be to facilitate convergence & coordination on ground and work in close coordination with the Gram Panchayats and other sub-committees to address issues pertaining to education, health, nutritional needs, legal rights, safety and security of women.

2. Activities to be undertaken:

Facilitation services under VCFS are aimed to linking women in need with the schemes/programs being implemented by the Central/State Government impacting the lives of women such as BBBP, One Stop Centre, Sabla, Jan Dhan Yojana, Swach Bharat etc. Ground level services will specially focus on the activities at the GP level as listed under BBBP Scheme (BBBP Scheme Implementation Guidelines may be seen at <http://www.wcd.nic.in/BBBPScheme/ImplementationguidelinesofBBBPScheme.pdf>)

Some of the major activities to be included under VCFS are:

- Collection, compilation of databases from different sources related with resource mapping of the villages in the villages being covered by them and the target group of women.
- Mobilize women into joining collectives, strengthen existing collectives at village level.

- Provide easy access to informational and other resources to the community members for effective participation in Gram Sabhas and PRIs
- Organize community meetings through *Naari ki Chaupal* to engage with community to build awareness about social issues, facilitate discussions on issues concerning women. The existing platform of Gram Sabha/Mahila Sabha/Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee (VHSNC)/Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) may be used. Mobilize women to participate in Gram Sabha meetings.
- Undertake household visits to spread awareness about government schemes, programmes and services like Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), Sabla etc., motivate to join various programs meant for their development and help in improving access.
- Promote nurturing family care behaviours and a caring community environment for young children, girls and women especially the most vulnerable ones.
- Use the forum of AWC Level Monitoring Committee to hold discussions around issues related to women and girls.
- Sensitize the community about the importance of healthy mother and child, about the ICDS scheme and the services provided thereunder.
- Coordinate with other ICDS field functionaries for various activities.
- Encourage and involve community in extending service management and outreach, enrich service quality, strengthen community mobilization.
- Coordinate and encourage deploying parents at AWCs daily on rotation basis to ensure service delivery, monitoring, attendance, etc. Coordinate and inter-act with PRI and Mother's Committee about implementation of ICDS scheme.
- Coordinate and encourage involvement of retired citizens in various activities of ICDS.
- Encourage AWCs to introduce the concept of Akshay Patra.
- Grievance redressal through articulation and follow-up cases in right forums such as Panchayats, One Stop Centre, VHSNC/VHND. Bring issues affecting women as agenda before Gram Panchayats for suitable redressal.
- Coordinate with other field level functionaries of different Government programmes like Anganwadiworkers, ASHA's, ANM's for various activities.
- Facilitate convergence & access to women centric programmes through SHG platforms.
- Coordinate with other local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and their staff working in the same region to utilize opportunities for collaboration.
- Visit 2-3 AWCs daily and to work under overall supervision of Supervisor, ICDS.

3. Mode of Selection of Volunteers:

The said position requires commitment to work for the cause of women empowerment and high sensitivity to gender issues. Selection/engagement of Village Coordinators

under VCFS to be made by the DC/DM and candidates/women engaged with NRLM and Mahila Samakhya to be given preference.

4. Required knowledge, skills, abilities for Volunteers

- Minimum 12th pass girls/women with basic understanding of gender issues
- Resident of same Gram Panchayat.
- Awareness on women issues and the ability to effectively communicate the same in the local dialect.
- Maximum age limit of 45 years.

5. Reporting and Monitoring Mechanism

Attendance and reporting shall be done at the Anganwadi Centers and monthly MIS report will be submitted to the State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) with a copy marked to the office of the Secretary, WCD/Social Welfare of the respective State Govt./UT Adm. The respective Panchayat Samiti/Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee (which are sub committees of standing committees of Panchayat and have representations from Health, ICDS, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and PRI) having jurisdiction over the concerned village may also provide overall coordination/supervision of the work being done at the GP level.

6. Budget:

An amount of Rs 19.20 lakh per district annually has been earmarked for undertaking the activities the GP level. The budget break-up may be seen as follows:

Annual Budget for Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS)				
(Revised)				
A	Honorarium		(Rs)	(Rs)
		<i>Number</i>	<i>per month</i>	<i>Annual</i>
	Village Coordinator	2	4000	96000
	Sub Total			96000
B	Non Recurring Expenditure			
	Establishment Charges			60000
C	Recurring Expenditure			
	Travelling Expenses		3000	36000
	Sub Total			36000
D	Total for 1 GP			192000
	Total for 1 district (10 GPs)			1920000