Nai Manzil is a new initiative of the Government launched on 8th August, 2015 at Patna, Bihar. The Scheme aims to benefit the minority youth who do not have a formal school leaving certificate, i.e., those in the category of school dropouts or educated in community education institutions like Madaras in order to provide them formal education and skills; and enables them to seek better employment and livelihood in the organized sector.

The Scheme has been approved with the cost of Rs. 650.00 Crore for five years with 50% funding from the World Bank. This is the first World Bank supported programme for minority welfare in this Ministry. The scheme is also significant as it combines education with skills for school dropouts which will significantly enhance their employability.

**Target Beneficiaries**

The primary catchment area for beneficiaries under this scheme are the 1,228 Community Development Blocks where the Minority population is 25% or more of the total population as identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Additional catchment areas beyond these Blocks may also be notified by the Steering Committee for the implementation of this scheme in consultation with the State governments. Total physical target of the scheme is to cover approximately one lakh beneficiaries.

- The trainee should belong to six notified Minority communities.
- Other minorities notified by the States/UTs also eligible for up to 5% of the total seats.
- The trainee should be between 17-35 years of age.
- Certain pockets of minority population within a non-minority district or city are also eligible.
- The trainees should belong to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population both from urban and rural areas.
- 30% of the beneficiary seats earmarked for girl / women candidates and 5% for persons with disability belonging to the minority community, to promote inter-community solidarity: 15% for non-minority BPL families are also considered.

**Scheme Components**

The education component of the Nai Manzil Scheme aims to integrate disadvantaged minority youth who were left out from formal schooling by helping them attain certification from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) or any State Open School. Under Nai Manzil, the candidates are offered either OBE Level ‘C’ (equivalent to Class VII) course or the ‘Secondary Level Examination Program’, depending on his/her eligibility.

**Skill Training Component**

Nai Manzil offers skill training compliant with National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). The skill training programme is of minimum 3 months duration and includes soft skills training, basic IT training and basic English training. The Scheme lays special focus on skill courses that are aligned at NSQF level 3 or above, so that the students benefited by the scheme have access to better jobs in the labour market. Training on Health and Life Skills is also imparted to the beneficiaries.
Institutional Arrangements and Scheme implementation

**Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)**

The MoMA, Govt of India (GoI) is the principal implementing agency of the Project. The overall operations for the project is headed by a Project Director not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Govt of India and he/she is supported by a Director and an Under Secretary.

**Program Management Unit**

The day to day functions of the Project implementation are managed by a Program Management Unit (PMU), which is led by a Team Leader and seven technical experts who work under the overall supervision and guidance of the Project Director.

**Steering Committee:**

A Steering Committee headed by the Secretary MoMA provides overall supervision and guidance to the project implementation. The Committee meets twice a year, although ad hoc meetings may be convened by the Chairperson based on needs.

**Technical Advisory Committee**

Apart from the Steering Committee, in order to provide frequent support and guidance to the implementation of the scheme, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been set up. This Committee provides need-based advice on curriculum, outreach, social inclusion and gender equality, IEC, and networking and collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and community leaders.

**Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs)**

The Project at the ground level is implemented by PIAs who are selected from amongst private (for profit or not for profit) and/or government agencies. A detailed appraisal process for the selection of PIA is established. The main instrument for implementing the scheme is results-oriented Performance Agreements between the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) and the Project Implementation Agencies (PIA). PIAs are the key drivers of the scheme.

**Safeguards**

The Nai Manzil scheme is socially inclusive and gender sensitive with its explicit focus on vulnerable communities from the minority communities. MoMA is already implementing a range of welfare schemes targeting the minorities with special attention to women, poor and vulnerable communities amongst minorities. The Scheme provides training on Health safety & Life Skills and Labour Welfare Legislations to all its beneficiaries.

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