

## ANNEXURE VI

### **COMMUNITY-BASED STRUCTURES TO BE SET UP UNDER SJSRY**

The community based organizations include Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs); Neighbourhood Committees (NHCs) and Community Development Society (CDS).

#### **I. NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP (NHG)**

This is an informal association of women living in a mohalla or basti or neighbourhood group of manageable size (preferably of 10 to 40 to represent urban poor / slum families). Geographic contiguity and homogeneity should be the basis to carve out the boundaries of the NHGs. At least one woman resident among them who is willing to serve as a volunteer should be selected as a Resident Community Volunteer (RCV) through community consensus or election or any other democratic process. There should be a change or rotation (if need be) of such volunteers at periodical intervals. The responsibilities of RCVs include:

- (i) to serve as a channel of information and communication among the families in the cluster;
- (ii) to represent the views of the Group in the Neighbourhood Committee, Community Development Society and other forums;
- (iii) to support planning, implementation and monitoring of activities at the neighbourhood level;
- (iv) to foster and encourage self-help, mutual help and participation in community improvement programmes; and
- (v) to motivate the community for being members of self-help groups/thrift and credit society; and to contribute to community development fund.

#### **II. NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE (NHC)**

A Neighbourhood Committee (NHC) is a more formal association of women from the Neighbourhood Groups located in close proximity and as far as feasible within the same electoral ward. The Committee should consist of all the RCVs from the Neighbourhood Groups as executives (with voting right). There can also be provision for honorary membership without a voting right for Community Organisers (COs), representatives from other sectoral programmes in the community like ICDS supervisor, school teacher, urban social health activist, ANM etc. The

Convener/President of the NHC will be selected/elected by the executive members of the NHC. The Convener will ensure that the meetings of the NHC are convened on regular basis. The responsibilities of the NHC would include:

- (i) to identify local problems and priorities;
- (ii) to provide suggestions for group involvement in meeting the community needs and goals (mini-plans);
- (iii) to support local action with partnership of responsible agencies including community contracts;
- (iv) to provide feedback to agencies on programme effectiveness and out-reach especially for children and women;
- (v) to develop community capacity through training in association with COs, NGOs and other sectoral departments;
- (vi) to develop community-based thrift and credit system as well as neighbourhood development fund;
- (vii) to facilitate the recovery of loans from the beneficiaries in time; and
- (viii) to assist/carry out community surveys in accordance with the guidelines.

The NHC may be registered under the Societies Registration Act, or other appropriate Acts, if so desired. If registered, these NHC may also apply for grants-in-aid under various schemes.

### **III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (CDS)**

The CDS is a formal association of all the Neighbourhood Committees at the town level based on common goals and objectives. The CDS may consist of elected/selected representatives of NHCs as executive members (with voting right); and other members with honorary membership (with no voting right) which may include community organizers, representatives of NGOs, sectoral departments, leading citizens, elected representatives of the area and other resource persons. The Community Development Society (CDS) should be registered under the Societies Registration Act or other appropriate Act to provide access to grant-in-aid under various schemes and for a wider financial and credit base. The responsibilities of CDS would include:

- (i) to represent needs of all the communities, especially women and children at various levels and forums;
- (ii) to liaise and link-up with agencies and departments to promote action in the community towards fulfillment of their needs;

- (iii) to identify specific training needs and arrange for capacity building of their organizations;
- (iv) to facilitate community surveys to be carried out to identify the genuine beneficiaries for economic and shelter benefits;
- (v) to prepare community development plans and proposals, mobilize resources from the community, town or other sectoral departments for implementation of such plans;
- (vi) to extend help to Banks in coordination with city/town UPA Cell, for ensuring repayment of loans by the beneficiaries in time;
- (i) to create small community assets in low-income areas in consultation with town city/town UPA Cell and Urban Local Body (ULB); and
- (ii) to develop and implement proposals for support from Community Participation Fund/Community Development Network under JNNURM and other programmes.

Community structures at different levels will be self-managed and may have volunteers in charge of groups of activities such as basic infrastructure, health, education, skill and livelihoods, thrift & credit etc.

The States/UTs may adopt other innovative structural arrangements regarding the hierarchy of community structures as considered appropriate. However, suitable guidelines need to be issued by them.