

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

A review meeting to discuss the I-MESA scheme was held on 6th September 2023 under the chairmanship of the Secretary, SJE, Shastri Bhawan. The meeting was attended by JS&FA, DDG, Director, NISD, Director (Media), DS (DP Division), DS (Stat. Division), Advisor/PMU Coordinator, NISD, NRCSA officers, Assistant Secretaries, AD (Stat.) & Sr. State Coordinator, PMU. The following points were discussed:

- i. At the onset, an overview of the scheme was discussed. The need for having in place guidelines for the scheme, the budget outlay and the components of the scheme were discussed. Thereafter, the draft revised I-MESA guidelines, based upon the inputs obtained from concerned Programme Divisions, were presented and discussed in detail. After deliberations, the decision was taken to circulate the draft revised I-MESA guidelines amongst all the Bureau Heads by giving a fixed timeline and thereafter the same may be sent to the IFD for obtaining their concurrence before finalization.
- ii. JS&FA clarified that the total envelope of the scheme was for Rs. 100 cr. for the period of 5 years, of which Rs. 70 Cr. comes from the I-MESA scheme and the remaining Rs. 30 Cr. from the administrative costs of various schemes. Also, JS&FA tried to explore whether the PMUs of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the PIUs under process could have some synergies.
- iii. Secretary, SJE mentioned that the CSSU has been designed with basic requirements to cross-verify and ensure surveillance of institutions even after the grant-in-aid schemes are converted to a 60:40 funding pattern.
- iv. Secretary, SJE emphasised on the need to have adequate

administrative cost to ensure better implementation and monitoring of the schemes. It was suggested that with time the administrative cost be strengthened to 4-5% of the budget of the department, as is the case for the other departments, to ensure effective implementation of the schemes.

- v. It was suggested to the concerned division to look at empanelling some agencies/institutions/universities for different assessment or evaluation studies for the department and also to work out some guidelines suggestive of rates for such agencies based on the modalities used by other departments.
- vi. Secretary, SJE suggested that the I-MESA scheme should be a means to strengthen the capacity of NISD, also.
- vii. A brief discussion was held concerning the social audit. It was suggested that students as a part of internship opportunities may be given chance to be part of social audit exercises and utilise their perspectives for the exercise.
- viii. It was suggested to have a list of senior professors/retired officials/eminent individuals for social audit exercises.
- ix. Secretary, SJE suggested the concerned division increase the number of studies being undertaken by the department. It was also suggested to build synergies between the Ambedkar chair in universities, the evaluation studies and the Social Audit team.
- x. It was also suggested to undertake a study to evaluate the effectiveness of various institutions functioning under the NAPDDR scheme.
- xi. NISD was asked to share the list of studies undertaken by the institution with the concerned divisions to bring in more convergence.
- xii. Secretary, SJE suggested the concerned division incorporate the proposal of setting up a data-analysis cell/Data Strategy Unit under the I-MESA scheme.
- xiii. The concerned division was asked to prepare a revised SFC

note to incorporate the suggested changes (say Rs 30 crore for this year and the subsequent years) in the scheme at the earliest.

- xiv. It was also suggested that there is a need to strengthen the information dissemination component of the I-MESA Scheme through Media Division.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.