

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION 1995

RESPONSE TO UN QUESTIONNAIRE

Ministry of
Women, Family Welfare and Child
Development

Ministry

PART ONE

Overview of trends in achieving gender equality and women's advancement

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report aims at highlighting the achievements of Mauritius in fostering gender equality in line with the guidelines enunciated in the Beijing Platform of Action. It has been prepared on the basis of the questionnaire sent by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women.

1.2. BACKGROUND

Mauritius is an island, covering about 2040 sq. kilometre land area, the main one being Rodrigues.

1.2.1 Mauritius is a small island area and including some small islands.

Population

The population was estimated at 1,174,367. There were 567,870

was estimated at 365,286 in 1999.

16.8 in 1998. The total population has increased. This is a result of an increase in the population during the 1960's and has enabled the country to have to bear certain responsibilities.

1.2.3 The crude birth rate was 37.3 in 1994, 18.3 in 1997. The fertility rate went down from 2.04 to 1.97 during the same period. This is due to the effective family planning programme which was launched in the country to control population growth. However, this has resulted in an ageing population which implies that younger generations will have to bear certain responsibilities - financial and social as well as family responsibilities.

The future age structure of the population is expected to reach 37 years in 2037. The median age will rise by 9 years for every child under 15 years in 1997.

1.2.4 Based on population projections, summary indicators of the population show that the median age will rise by 9 years. The major increase will occur between 1997 and 2017 when the median age will rise by nearly 6 years from 28 to 34 years. There will be one elderly person for every 3 children in 1997.

The life expectancy at birth was 65.6 for men in 1980 to 66.4 in 1997. The death rate was 7.7 for men in 1990 and 5.7 in 1997. The population

1.2.5 Life expectancy at birth has increased for men from 65.6 in 1990 and for women from 73.4 to 74.3 over the same period. For women, it

projection for years 2010 is estimated at 1 282 000. The population below 15 years of age is expected to decrease from 30% to 23% in 2010.

1.2.6 The average household size is 4.2 for urban areas and 4.6 for rural areas. 50% of the population live in rural areas.

Economy

1.2.7 There has been a gradual shift since the 1970's from a monocrop economy based on sugar to a diversified one with the setting up of an Export Processing Zone in the early 1980's, the development of a tourism sector and a financial sector. The industrial sector has attracted foreign investments and has been instrumental in creating employment. The GDP growth rate was 3.0% in 1996, 4.0% in 1997 and 5.0% in 1998.

1.2.8 Mauritius has been classified as a country with a high human development index and was ranked 51st in 1997. The HDI index in 1997.

In 1997, in a National Strategy for Sustainable Development document, it is stated that maintaining success into the future will not be easy as the deregulation of global markets will place increasing pressure on Mauritian businesses and problems of unemployment in the labour market and the environment. In order to ensure the sustainability of the country, economic and management needs have to be adapted to the development of the country.

Culture

1.2.9 The Mauritian population derives ancestry from Africa, China, Europe and India. Consequently, Mauritius has a multiplicity of cultures, traditions and religions.

Government

1.2.10 The Government is based on a democratic system. Mauritius was successively a French colony and a British colony and gained independence in 1968. It became a Republic in 1992. Elections are held at regular intervals to elect town and village councillors.

13. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS - GENDER EQUALITY

1.3 The Government of Mauritius is committed to human rights and justice as enshrined in the De Facto Constitution of Mauritius safeguards the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens. Mauritius has acceded to the Convention of the Elimination of a Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in June 1984 and ratified it in 1988. Mauritius has submitted its First and Second Periodic Report and is finalising its Third Periodic Report. Mauritius is also a signatory to the 1995 Common

The objective of gender equality has received continued attention, with
achievements in terms of equality of access to education, employment
participative and increase of activities in the economic, social and protection
rights. Legal provisions ensure equality of access and opportunity in all sectors. Prior
1995, legal reforms had already been introduced, with the amendment of Code Napoléon
to enable a woman to choose her profession, set up a business, open accounts, borrow
without permission of her spouse, to choose matrimonial regime, sharing of parental
were amended to enable the grant of divorce on grounds of fault.
Income tax legislation was amended to ensure that married
could make separate returns. The Jury Act was amended to enable
women to act

constitution was amended to prohibit sex discrimination. Gender

Introduction of a Protection of Human Rights Act in 1998

amendments to the Civil Code in 1999 to ensure strict equality in the
administration of property and parental rights.

amendments to the Criminal Code in 1998 to make penalties against sexual
assault and family abandonment more severe and to create the offence of
sexual harassment.

amendment of the Citizenship Act in 1996 to give to the foreign spouse of a
Mauritian woman the right to citizenship, and

Introduction of a Protection from Domestic Violence Act in 1997

national mechanisms have been strengthened for more effective service
support to women. Mauritius has a full fledged ministry for women, which

body for women's associations. A Gender Bureau has been established to ensure the
implementation of a Gender Management System based on Commonwealth Secretariat's

guidelines. A consultative mechanism known as the National Advisory Committee on
the Status of Women comprising NGO's, ministries, UNDP, the private sector and other

as been established by an act of

in 1998. The National Women Entrepreneur C
parliament to promote women entrepreneurship

in 1998. Economic empowerment has been one
1998, within its poverty alleviation pro

introduced a micro credit scheme based on
provide loans to women without collateral for income generating activities. Marketing

being a serious impediment for women, a market centre provides free marketing outlet
the a Common Facility Centre offers training for skills development.

29 years and 37.7% in the age group 20 to 24 years. The number of divorces increased from 792 in 1996 to 1012 in 1998.

1.4.4. With longer life expectancy among women, there is a larger segment of

1.4.11 At the political level, there has been a substantial improvement in the participation of women in the last elections in 1995 with more women presented as candidates. For the first time, six women were elected as members of the national assembly. There are six

1.4.18 Population control and family planning have been very successful in Mauritius as illustrated by the decline in the rate of fertility and number of infants. A project for the introduction of reproductive health education in schools is being funded by UNFPA and will be implemented by some of the staff of the Ministry of Women, Family Welfare and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. A campaign was launched since 1998 by the National Children's Council and the Mauritius Family Planning Association to inform young students about unsafe sex and its consequences.

It is considered that there is a high rate of self-induced abortions following abortions.

7.19 Abortion remains a highly sensitive and controversial issue but education programmes continue to address the issue of unsafe abortion.

From 1999 the number of HIV/AIDS cases were 11 of which 75 were males. There seems to be a greater need for sensitisation of the public on the issue of unsafe abortion.

1.4.20 Fertility rate (TFR) has remained at a 1.72 level over the last 10 years. The issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children has been taken up by the Ministry of Women, Family Welfare and Child Development. A study on sexual and commercial exploitation of children in Mauritius was carried out in 1998 and a report was released in November 2000. Campaigns have been held in high risk areas and a hotline service is operating. A working group has been set up with NGOs to have their collaboration and involvement in combating this problem.

1.4.21 Sound nutrition habits are not in consonance with modern life styles. The 1998 NCD Survey carried by Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has shown that there has been an increase in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and diabetes. The survey also indicates that diet consumed is not balanced and many pregnant women are anaemic and have low weight babies and low weight babies. Due to lack of time, women rely on fast foods. Even for children, the trend is for fast foods, pre-packed snacks, more animal foods and less vegetables. The adoption of poor nutritional habits at this early age has an impact on the growth of children contributing to the risk factors for NCD and cardiovascular diseases. According to the report of the survey, there is an increase in the incidence of NCD's even among young adults and youth. The Home Economics Unit of the Ministry of Women, Family Welfare and Child development has recently introduced a new course in 'healthy eating and nutrition' through the Home Economics Resource

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population will more than treble in the following 40 years till 2036. It also indicated that there is a predominance of women among the elderly population. Taking cognizance of the implications of the ageing population on the national pension scheme and the case of old people, the Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity & Regional

Development and Ministry of Health are in the process of preparing an Action Plan for the ageing population.

Women and economic empowerment

1.4.23 Women and men have equal rights to employment. Women constitute the bulk of the labour force in the EPZ sector (37%). The female activity rate has risen from 34.7 in 1990 to 38.7 in 1997. A sector-wise analysis of female employment for 1997 also indicates a high level of female participation in manufacturing (25.1%). As at 1995, 31% of women were in the labour force, with 41% in the industrial sector. 70% of working women were earning less than Rs 4,000 monthly.

1.4.24 The 1995 Labour Force Survey revealed that the median salary for women was Rs 2,200 while for men it was Rs 2,500. The House of Representatives, 1996-1997

greatly as they become more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and problems of stress, tension, malnutrition, lack of attention to children, alcoholism, drug use, substance abuse and sexual exploitation. Strategies to support women living in such circumstances are being developed and much emphasis is being given to entrepreneurship development as means to alleviate poverty.

In the programme for the promotion of women entrepreneurship, the number of entrepreneurs has increased over the past two years. Thus the Ministry of Family Welfare and Child Development has introduced a Micro Credit Scheme in the Grameen model of Bangladesh to enable the poorest segments of the population to have access to credit facilities without any collateral and start income generating activities. The scheme favours group solidarity among women (3 to 5 women) and does not require any collateral. The maximum amount loaned is B.T. 50,000/-.

1.4.32 Since 1998, the scheme has benefited about 130 women in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Government is funding training schemes for skills development and encouraging entrepreneurship. In the agricultural sector, loans with low interest rates are being provided for farming activities, fertilisers and other inputs are subsidised and a technology development scheme is being implemented. Certain products such as milk, mangoes, onions receive a guaranteed price to encourage production. In the manufacturing sector, there is a predominance of women. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organisation is also training women entrepreneurs. Research and Extension Unit is carrying out training in value adding to agricultural products. Incentives are also provided to encourage export of products.

1.4.33 To enable women entrepreneurs to sell their goods, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection has set up a Women's Market in Port Louis. The market provides a dedicated space for women entrepreneurs to sell their goods. The market has been successful in providing a platform for women entrepreneurs to sell their goods. The market has also provided a platform for women entrepreneurs to interact with each other and share their experiences. The market has also provided a platform for women entrepreneurs to receive support and advice from the Government. The market has also provided a platform for women entrepreneurs to receive support and advice from the Government. The market has also provided a platform for women entrepreneurs to receive support and advice from the Government.

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Are goals of gender equality being pursued in public policy?

1.5.1 Gender equality goals are being pursued consistently by the Government. Since 1995, several legal reforms have been introduced in the National Assembly, projects have been specifically designed for women such as the micro credit scheme and programmes to combat gender based violence, child prostitution, drug addiction, and to respond to specific health needs of women. Additional funds have been allocated specifically for these projects.

1.5.2 There has been an increased awareness of gender issues in other ministries - Ministry of Health has focussed special attention on women's needs, Ministry of Cooperatives has organised seminars to encourage men to join cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture has been encouraging women to learn new techniques for adding value to their agricultural products and Ministry of Finance has allocated additional funds for projects for women entrepreneurs.

the needs of women in terms of maternity leave, breast feeding, health and welfare. The Export Processing Zone Labour Welfare Fund has set up a fund of day care centres for employees of EPZ.

6. Country's Priorities in terms of critical areas of the Platform of Action

6.1 Mauritius identified the following priorities:

Integration of gender issues into the mainstream of government and business activities

Development of a holistic approach to the health sector, attention to the special needs of women

Women, reproductive health to be made a priority area with country wide cervical cancer detection programmes

of a domestic violence act coupled with national information and awareness campaign

to encourage girls to take up technical and vocational training so that they may engage in professions which were previously male domains only

mainstreaming from a gender perspective has been most least sectors is a gender approach being applied.

Gender Bureau was set up to ensure gender mainstreaming, which to a certain extent in the implementation of a strategy against gender

1997, a Protection from Domestic Violence Act was enacted. Before re treated as cases of assault under the Criminal Code. The

Act required a multi agency approach as domestic violence cases

robation, Ministries of Health, Social Security, Housing and NGO's

Commonwealth Secretariat has used Mauritius as a pilot for a Model

egrated approach to violence against women and girls

action plan was developed and the roles of every organisation has

There is already a referral system operating between the different

1.7 Areas successful.

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Framework

1.7.2 A N
been define

1.9.1 Mauritius faces new challenges with the increase of labour costs and loss of preferential trade benefits and with the coming into force of the World Trade Organisation. Future growth will depend on effecting a quantum leap in productivity at all levels as well as moving into high quality niche markets in the garments/textile sector. The possible reduction in the employment opportunities for women the majority of whom are at present employed in this sector - could present a sudden drop in family incomes as many find themselves unemployed. As "jobless growth" becomes a reality, women may be hit harder. Even presently, the unemployment rate for men has increased from 3.1% to 3.7% but from 2.5% to 10.0% for women, between 1990 and 1998. Part time work has only been introduced in 1990 so as to allow flexibility in hours of work in the sector (The Labour (Amendment) Act No 6 of 1996) but neither the employers' nor employees' are taking advantage of this provision.

1.9.2 - Recent closing of EPZ factories and redundancy policies have hit women in a proportionately larger extent than men. The unemployment rate for women is 10.0% while for men it is 3.7%.

1.9.3 The fact that a larger number of women than men are illiterate has also led to a wide gap in terms of access to technology. Women find themselves lagging far behind as they do not master the new technologies and do not have adequate access to modern equipment and tools of production. They are absent from certain job traditional

sectors as it holds out possibilities for women become more computer literate, moves into customised designer clothes, and increase. These are areas where women are trained in modern technology. They need more as those

1.9.4 Greater globalisation presents a more flexible work management provision. As the EPZ sector upgrades its technology, the demand for designers and creatives can have an edge over men. CAD/CAM design and other techniques. The tourism sector has a employment opportunities for women, both those with little education with tertiary education and has enabled more of them to move into man

PART TWO

FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

2.1 National budget

2.1.1 Social sector budgets account for around 40% of the total recurrent budget, half of

to the aged and needy. The rest of the social welfare services, including health and education,

which finances programmes for the social sector budget is for the provision

the Ministry of Women,

financial year 1998/1999 to 1999/2000, the recurrent Budget for Family Welfare and Child Development has increased

ditional specific allocations have been made for the funding of a micro credit scheme,

Early Childhood Development Policy and a campaign against child prostitution,

0, the Ministry owned only three buildings which are used as Women and Family

private buildings. In 1997, a new, modern Common Facility Centre for Women and Family Centre was constructed. Government has provided funds for the construction of ten new child care centres, ten new Centres for women, a resource centre and home for children and women in district. Government also should have spent

to meet such incidental

2.1.3 Government has put in place some

of Social Security disbursed Rs.10.8 million of

- **A National Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**, chaired by the Minister and including media, civil society, private sector, NGO's, academics, UNDP and professionals, ministries and departments acts as a national consultative mechanism and provides policy inputs and directions to the Gender Bureau.
- **A National Women Entrepreneur Council** was set up in 1999 by an Act of

3.1.6 NGO's are actively engaged in a number of activities such as providing shelter facilities for domestic violence victims, family planning, education and training, adult literacy, skills development, rehabilitation of drug addicts, supporting alcohol problem, counseling and support to the disabled, promoting values enrichment etc.

3.1.7 They are consulted for all major policies and decisions. For the preparation of National Gender Action Plan, NGO's were invited to submit their views. The draft was finalized.

National Advisory Committee on the Status of Women has also been set up as a mechanism to provide policy inputs to the Gender Bureau and thus gender analysis and planning.

PART THREE

Implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

A. Innovative policies programmes, projects and good practices

13.4 Gender Based Violence

3.4.1 Gender based violence is said to be one of the most pervasive aspects of violations of human rights. The majority of victims, silent sufferers are women for whom bearing

the burden of violence often becomes a way of life. Apart from being a human rights issue, domestic violence has heavy economic costs in terms of productivity, health charges, implications for children's stability.

3.4.2 At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, Malaysia identified gender based violence as one of the critical priority areas. As a policy response, in May 1997, the Ministry of Women, Family Welfare and Child Development enacted the Protection from Domestic Violence Act. The law became operational in 1997 and was fully proclaimed on 8 March 1998.

The aim is the protection of victims and their children, some trying to live harmoniously, wherever this is possible. The Act applies to spouses that is, persons or have lived together under the same roof, whether they are legally married and provides for the issue of

orders, which restrict the abuser from further violence and orders him to

- Occupancy Orders, which grant exclusive right to the victim to live in which may belong to the victim or the abuser, or both
- Tenancy Orders, which give the victim the exclusive right to occupy a and if the house is rented by the abuser, he would have to pay the rent.

3.4.4 A breach of any of these orders is a criminal offence punishable by and a fine.

3.4.5 For the implementation of the act, the following structures, have been

- a Domestic Violence Intervention Unit - which has been decentralised to regions - and provides 24 hour service through a hot line system.
- A pool of psychologists who give counselling to victims.

3.4.6 A special unit within the ministry of women to provide free legal aid to victims - as the legal aid system was found to involve too long procedures.

A shelter to provide temporary refuge to victims.

3.4.6 A Survey of Domestic Violence cases was carried out to determine the factors that led to violence. The findings revealed that 96 % of victims are women, a majority of victims were not working and had low level of education, 56% of cases were due to alcoholism and 20% were cases of sexual abuse. In 85% of cases the victims suffered from physical injuries, 15% suffered from psychological injuries, 10% suffered from both physical and psychological injuries, 10% suffered from no injuries.

3.3.1 A strategy for the economic empowerment of women is being implemented. Government, through incentives to develop women entrepreneurship. The strategy includes the following -

- setting up of a Women Entrepreneurship Unit at the Ministry of Women, Welfare and Child Development to provide guidance and advice to prospective women entrepreneurs and to conduct training, awareness and promotional activities.

through skills development

- Training of Women in Women and Family Care programmes;

preneur selected after a

- Rewards for the most outstanding women in national competition every year.

• setting up of a Market Centre for women entrepreneurs by the ministry to provide a free marketing outlet to women producers. The venue and facilities are provided free of charge and a rotation schedule has been established to provide as many women as possible the chance to use the

- setting up of a common facility centre for production of goods and to provide training

- a micro credit scheme for women based on 100% guarantee

implemented with the collaboration of the Development Bank of Mauritius. The bank administers the loans. One important action by the bank has been the relaxation of the banking condition that spouses should sign before loans are granted. A technical committee monitors the scheme and selection of projects. It is supported by a small working group. An information campaign is conducted in various regions to make women beneficiaries have to follow a course on the management of projects, accounting etc. before they benefit from the scheme. 125 women have already

- A National Women Entrepreneurship Forum for representatives of women entrepreneurship.

- A Francophone Forum of Women entrepreneurs organised in 1999 to create a network in the Indian Ocean region and to provide trade

- A Programme of Training for women to develop their skills and direct the Venture capital fund has been established for entrepreneurs.

- Any individual may apply by way of motion to the court with a view to obtaining the return of a child and for the purpose of securing effective exercise of the right of access to the child;
- The court may issue interim instructions pending the conclusion of a case to secure the welfare and protection of a child;
- If an individual makes a plea to the court, the court may declare that the removal of a child from his retention outside Mauritius is wrong.

5 The Child Development Unit was set up in 1995 to implement the Child Protection

In 1996, the services were decentralised in six regions covering the island of Mauritius. Each centre has transport attached to it. A working arrangement has been established with the Police in Rodrigues for the implementation of the Protection Act and dealing with cases of child abuse.

Co-ordinating committee has been set up with the participation of various ministries and departments concerned and a national framework for the protection of children in need and their families will be developed. A child protection unit for child re-entry will soon be set up in one region. It will be tried for a period of one year and be evaluated to assess its effectiveness. A National Child Protection Register will be set up to register

established for the
A working arrange
implementation of t

3.6.6 A Child Protection

- The National Women's Council be reviewed so that it becomes more representative

and provides greater opportunities for women to express their views and opinions.

ved to encourage more leadership and assertiveness

in boards, committees and commissions;

with the use of language which encourages gender

in political and decision making will be conducted.

accessible to all at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. compulsory and the enrolment rate is around 95% for girls. At about 52% according to 1997 figures. Girls generally perform better at school examinations. The pass rate for girls was 74% for girls at Higher School Certificate compared to 71% for boys in 1997 and at Certificate for Schools, it was 69% for girls as compared to 61% for boys. A report was prepared in 1997 focussing on glaring defects of the system is presently expanding the education system and a mine

- Review school curriculum among female students;
- Increase the participation of women in boards, committees and commissions;
- Bring legal reforms to eliminate gender stereotyping

Women and Education

3.8.1 Education is compulsory and the enrolment rate is around 95% for girls. At about 52% according to 1997 figures. Girls generally perform better at school examinations. The pass rate for girls was 74% for girls at Higher School Certificate compared to 71% for boys in 1997 and at Certificate for Schools, it was 69% for girls as compared to 61% for boys. A report was prepared in 1997 focussing on glaring defects of the system is presently expanding the education system and a mine

Training (TVEI) is of particular concern. Traditional perceptions of appropriate roles for men and women in the work place should be challenged. We must re-examine gender-inclusive learning programmes, both in content and delivery, and consider gender-sensitive faculty.

lack of skills and a specialised court in family restrictions. Other

concerned. We have noted a number of problem areas such as competence to deal with gender based violence and the availability of personnel. Intervention in domestic violence cases is a long service and may be difficult to sustain in situations where ministries are reluctant to invest resources. Data collection is not harmonised. Housing and employment are constraints for women victims.

4.4 Resources are stretched and increases in the budgetary allocation are needed to enable the full implementation of projects at the required pace.

3. Commitments to further action and initiatives

National Gender Action Plan, which defines a primary objective is the attainment of greater equality in preserving family welfare. The plan views the socio-economic environment, while also considering

5.1 In 1999, Government approved a vision for gender equality. The job and equity between men and women, needs of women, in the wider social the multicultural context of Mauritius

central stakeholders. The focus is on the socio-economic environment as a whole.

5.2 The new framework after the NGAP is a pragmatic document intended to make an environment of men, women and children and hence to

ensures the collaboration of all stakeholders to work in a systematic

5.3 An implementation plan has been worked out with all stakeholders. Monitoring mechanisms are being set up so that way and regular evaluation can be made.

Government and is being

5.4 An action plan for the girl child has been approved and implemented.

taken into account gender

5.5 A National Youth policy has been developed with a view to addressing issues.

various processes of various ministries the gender mainstreaming

5.6 The integration of a gender analysis into the processes of four key ministries for year 2000/2001 with planned expansion in other ministries.

A pilot project involving the integration of a gender analysis into the processes of four key ministries for year 2000/2001 with planned expansion in other ministries.

6.1 Women play a very important role in the economic development of Rodrigues. They

are responsible for much of the subsistence farming and commercial agricultural sector. Water has been a constraint to the development of Rodrigues. In the mid 1990s the island went through a period of severe drought resulting in disruption of the agricultural farming - maize, onions, chillies, vegetables and livestock. This has led to a slowing down of agricultural activity.

Efforts have been done in the recent years to improve the social infrastructure, in order to provide water and sanitation. According to UNICEF/WHO/MOH study conducted in 1995, 75% of the population had no water. Government has introduced various measures to revive economic development. This has included programmes to provide incentives for agricultural activities, credit facilities for small and medium industries. Tourism has been encouraged with improved communications between Rodrigues and the main island.

Employment among men and women and environmental degradation due to erosion of grazing and over fishing affect the development of the island. The female labour participation rate is lower than in Mauritius. In 1997, 63% of the female population were employed. Only 10% of the female population were employed in Rodrigues and the main island.

There has been development to serve the population of about 35,000 people. The enrolment at the primary and secondary level are lower than in Mauritius. The enrolment at the primary level is 71 in Form I and 235 in Form VI. The level of adolescent girls is also a matter of concern. In 1997, there were 63 live births for girls under 18 years. The number of marriages of girls below 18 years was 15.

Many women also find themselves as heads of households. A survey undertaken in 1996 indicated that 10% of the population were heads of households. This is due to the misallocation of the family income in households with meagre financial resources.

The Ministry of Women, Family Welfare and Child Development has implemented a micro credit scheme in Rodrigues. It has enabled several women to start their own businesses. A Family Counselling service has been set up in the island to provide psychological and legal support to families and individuals that have difficulties. An economic training programme is being established to encourage women and girls to start their own businesses. Trainers have been trained on the subject of healthy eating and nutrition. The programme will soon be set up in Rodrigues. The Domestic Violence awareness programme has also been extended to the island of Rodrigues.

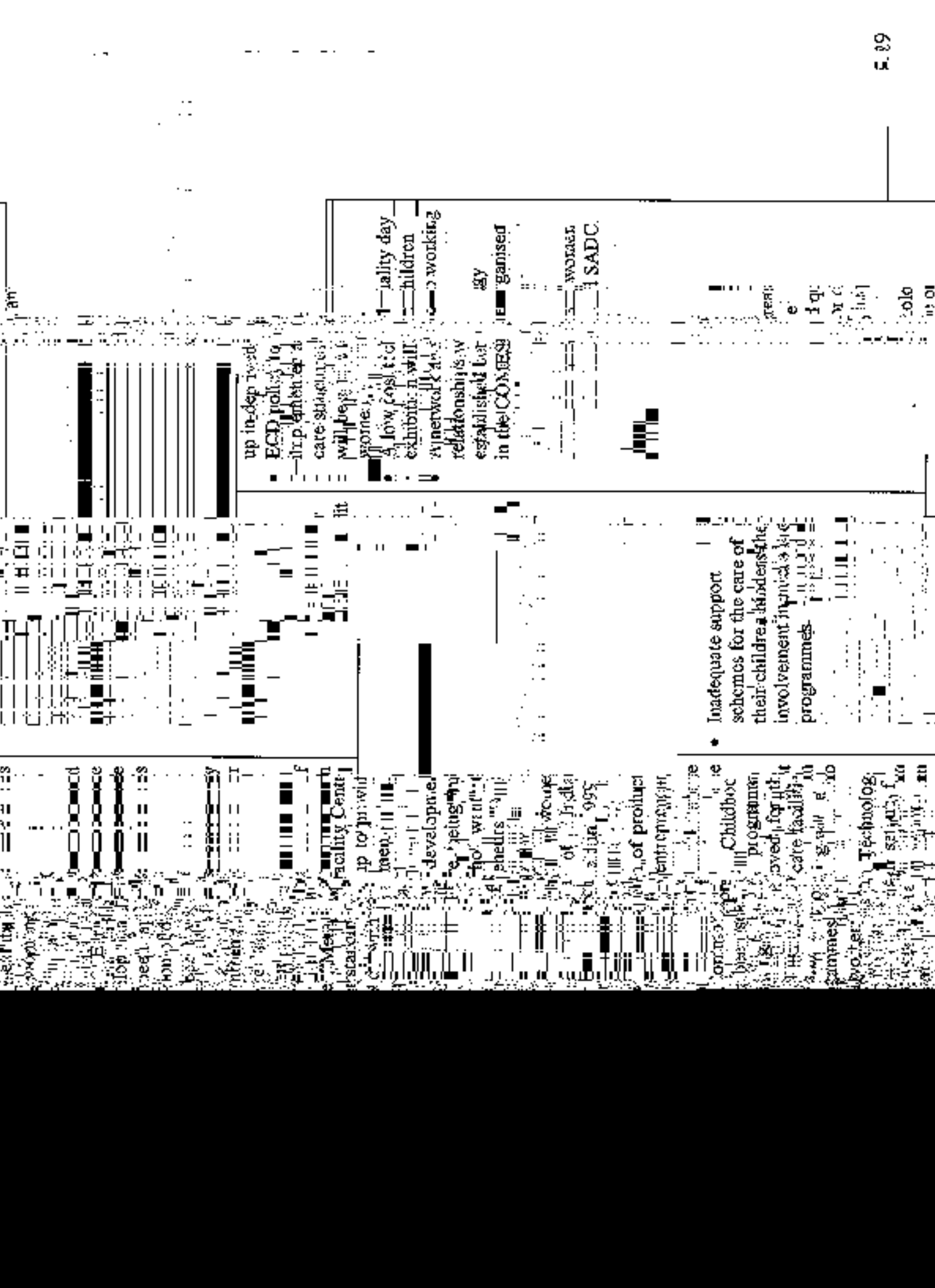
The National Gender Action Plan has provided measures which will be implemented during the next few years.

Centres will be set

to further
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women in the
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Education and Training of women

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| <p>Small Corporation of India. Cost transfer of technology to women. A. Involvement in technology extension work. Social and micro-finance will be organised. Key workers in the area. A. Action plan. Reducing the proportion of girls in education in areas including the poor. Additional security arrangements being initiated for educational access. An Early Childhood Development programme has been adopted for the creation of pre-school centres for 3-5 years. IEC programmes available for women. V. Extension centres. Computer literacy classes being conducted in Women's Family Centres.</p> | <p>percentage of girls and women in remove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review curriculum system to all gender bias • Review streamlines subjects encourage more girls in science and technology • Introduce health part of education in schools • Study job market, education career guidance, training programmes for women education |
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Violence against women

- ... information...
- ... discussed on...
- ... conducted...
- ... available...
- ... substance...
- ... women...
- ... health...
- ... reproductive health...
- ... violence against women...

Violence against women

- ... information...
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Violence against women

- ... information...
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- ... available...
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- ... health...
- ... reproductive health...
- ... violence against women...

Women and health

- ... information...
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- ... conducted...
- ... available...
- ... substance...
- ... women...
- ... health...
- ... reproductive health...
- ... violence against women...

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater participation • Leadership training programmes are being organised • Creation of Women's associations has been encouraged and associations receive a nominal annual grant from Government • Women and Family Centres | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disseminated • A criminological study conducted and findings will be used to improve mechanisms for data collection and to address male perpetrators • Legal literacy classes conducted in factories • places of work to sensitise women on their legal rights • Not applicable in Mauritius | <p>Lack of leadership programmes</p> <p>Inadequate assertiveness programmes in schools</p> <p>Relatively lower rate of literacy among women</p> <p>Political culture and practices which are not conducive to women's participation</p> <p>Strong resistance to</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership training programmes available to all levels • Consider the reserve seats for leadership programmes at the University for women • Review curriculum for leadership assignments for selection of 37% • Establish a school programme to encourage skills and women access and readers • Women emerging • to identify |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate interest for gender programmes at the level of heads of ministries and departments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... (illegible text) ... |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reforms for greater participation of women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... (illegible text) ... |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of gender awareness at all levels Lack of specialised gender skills to implement gender management Inadequate funds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... (illegible text) ... |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... (illegible text) ... |

Women and the environment
 • BEC programmes for women
 • Community projects for recycling
 • Training programmes for recycling of waste materials

and to establish strict equality in property and parental rights
 • Protection of the Act enacted

• Workshop on women and the media
 • Gender awareness programmes carried out
 • Media representatives included in the National Advisory Committee of Women

• Increase awareness among personnel
 • Organise gender top on self-conscience for ethics for
 • Organise workshop on regulating life event media
 • Introduce legislations of provisions to press and exploitation of women
 • Support initiatives to women's association
 • Increase education for the programmes
 • Initiate projects in community

| | child | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove stereotyping in text books • Extend child watch network to other regions • Conduct a study on child abuse • Introduce sex/family life education in schools • Continue campaign against child prostitution • Review existing laws to reinforce legal provisions against child prostitution • Improve school environment to make it more supportive to girls • Increase extra curricular activities for girls • Develop career guidance materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court system is not user friendly • Lack of financial training • Poor response from children in view of lack of support in dealing with their institutions • Lack of specialised staff on issues such as child prostitution • Lack of objective and dispassionate judgement issues such as child prostitution • Exploitation of girls as prostitutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court system is not user friendly • Lack of financial training • Poor response from children in view of lack of support in dealing with their institutions • Lack of specialised staff on issues such as child prostitution • Lack of objective and dispassionate judgement issues such as child prostitution • Exploitation of girls as prostitutes |