

DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Right to Information Act, 2005

Manual 1

Particulars of organization, functions and duties[Section 4(1)(b)(i)]

1. Aims and Objectives of the Organization:

The Aims and Objectives of the Commission have been spelt out in the Delhi Commission for Women Act, 1994. It reads:

- (i) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions,namely:
 - (a) investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the constitution and other laws;
 - (b) present to the Government annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of these safeguards;
 - (c) make in such reports recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the conditionsof women in the Capital;
 - (d) Review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations;
 - (e) take up the cases of violation of the provision of the Constitution and of other-laws relating to women with appropriate authorities;
 - (f) look into complaints and take suo-moto notice of matters relating to: -
 - (i). deprivation of women's rights;
 - (ii). non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also achieve the objective of equality and development;
 - (iii). Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women, and take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities.
 - (g) call for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women and identify the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal;
 - (h) undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement, such as, lack of access to housing and basic services, inadequate support services and technologies for reducing drudgery and occupational health hazards and for increasing their productivity;

- (i) participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of women;
- (j) evaluate the progress of the development of women in the Capital;
- (k) inspect or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home, women's institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise, and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action if found necessary;
- (l) fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women;
- (m) make periodical reports to the Government on any matter pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil;
- (n) Any other matter which may be referred to it by the Governments

2. Mission/Vision:

Mission

The Mission of the Commission is to empower women of Delhi politically, economically and socially by fulfilling the duties and responsibilities entrusted with it as per the mandate.

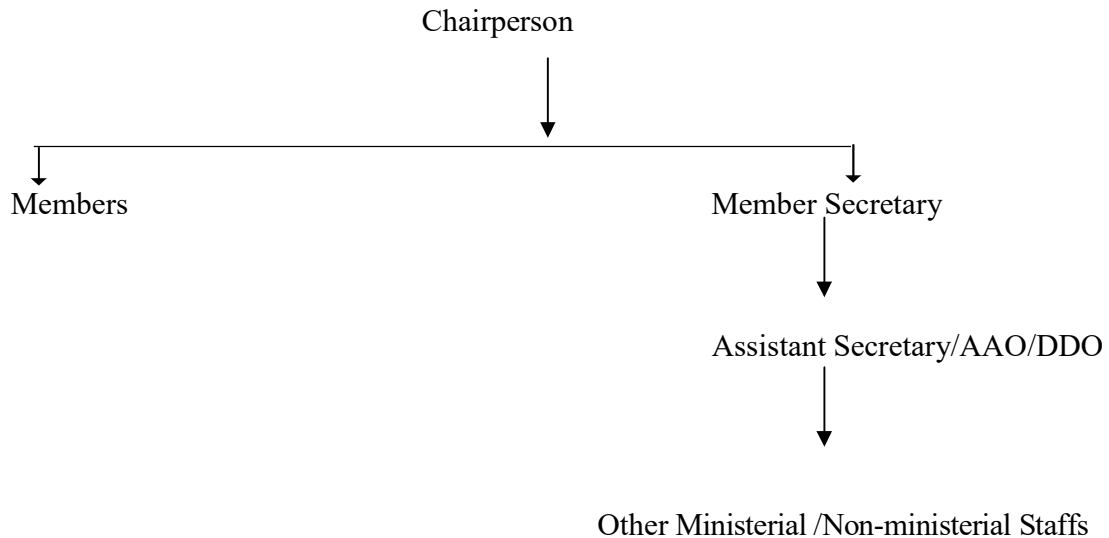
Vision

To Make Delhi a place safe for all women

3. Brief history and background for its establishment:

The Delhi Commission for Women was established under the Delhi Commission for Women Act, 1994 as passed by the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Commission was first constituted in the year 1996 with a Chairperson and two Members initially for a period of one year. The present Commission with a Chairperson and 3 Members was re-constituted in 27th July 2015 for a three year period.

4. Organization Charts:



5. Allocation of business:

As per the provisions contained in the Delhi Commission for Women Act, 1994.

6. Duties to be performed to achieve the mission:

As per the provisions contained in the Delhi Commission for Women Act, 1994. Please refer to Aims & Objectives.

7. Details of services rendered: Sahyogini

The Commission is running a family counseling unit called 'Sahyogini' from its inception in the year 1997. This is a continuing aspect of the Commission. A panel of members and legal advisers hold Sahyogini sessions where counseling is done for disputing parties many times before the Commission reaches a final conclusion or solution for the affected women. It exercises the powers of a civil court to ensure compliance of its summons for witnesses and for evidence. Often disputes are settled and families are reconciled. A follow up is also maintained about the cases handled by the unit. The number of cases being handled by the unit is steadily increasing which is a clear indication that the functioning of the cells is well received by the women in distress and has no hesitation in referring their grievances for redressal through counselling. Through Sahyogini the Commission has created a friendly space where sensitive family issues can be discussed, counselling taken and reconciliation attempted at the pre litigation stage. Cases attended to pertain to the following areas:

- Matrimonial dispute
- Divorce
- Child custody
- Rape
- Dowry related issues
- Maintenance
- Property related
- Sexual harassment at work place

- Harassment by neighbours
- Extra-marital relationships

Helpline:

From simple but effective initiatives, to help women in distress, due to increasing violence on women, 'Helpline' was started in March 2000, which provides counseling help over telephone, by counselors and legal advisers. This is proved to be a timely and appropriate intervention. Some cases are settled on the telephone itself but others that need to be worked upon are called to the Commission to the counseling unit, 'Sahyogini'. Legal advice is also provided on line and in case of emergency, a field team is rushed to handle the situation. The issues dealt with the Helpline are:

- Matrimonial discord
- Family adjustment problems
- Physical and mental harassment by husband and in laws
- Harassment by neighbours or others
- Child custody
- Maintenance, divorce and desertion
- Rape
- Dowry deaths
- Physical abuse
- Emotional distress
- Legal advice and implication
- Other miscellaneous problems of women

8. Citizens/Public interaction:

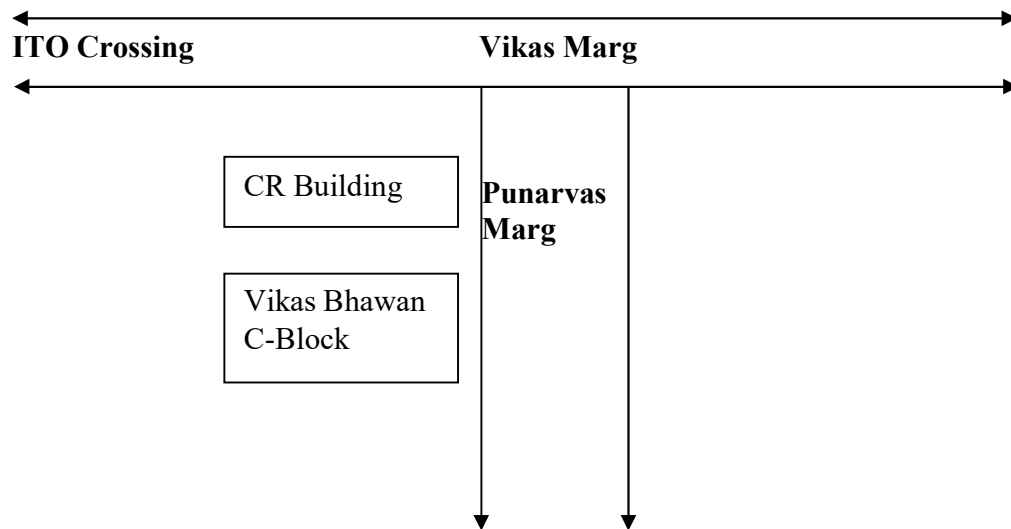
The Commissions functions call for citizens-public interaction with respect to receipt of complaints and its disposal. The general public is free to obtain whatever information is shareable with them during the office hours or through the Delhi Right to Information Act 2005.

9. Postal address of the main office, attached/subordinate office/field units etc:

Delhi Commission for Women
2nd Floor, C-Block, Vikas Bhawan
I P Estate, New Delhi – 110 002

The Delhi Commission for Women has no attached/subordinate office/field units.

10. Map of office:



11. Working hours both for office and public:

From 09:30 AM to 6.00 PM from Monday to Friday except declared gazette holidays.

12. Grievance redressal mechanism:

Complaints from women are received and registered in the Helpdesk. The complaints are heard in the Commission on all working days, assisted by legal counselors. Wherever the Commission feels that a complainant require legal assistance it is provided through the Delhi Legal Services Authority.

Public grievances pertaining to the Commission are timely attended to their satisfaction. The officers and staff authorized for dealing with the public are always ready to provide with information requested for. Moreover, the general public can also seek information under the DRTI Act.