

Ujjawala Scheme

[UPSC Notes]

What is Ujjawala Scheme?

Children and Women trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is an organized crime, and it violates human rights.

- India has emerged as a destination, and transit for cross-border, and in-country trafficking.
- There are various reasons for trafficking such as low status of women, poverty, lack of protective environment, etc.
- Keeping the above problems and gaps in mind, the Ujjawala Scheme has been launched by the government to prevent illicit trafficking and also to rescue, rehabilitate, and reintegration, victims who were trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Objective of Ujjawala Scheme

The objective of Ujjawala Scheme are as follows:

- To prevent women and children trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- Creating awareness through public debate, social mobilization, and involvement of local communities, organizing seminars, and other innovative activities.
- To rescue the victim and find a safe and secure place for them.
- To offer basic needs to the victims like shelter, medical aid, legal aid, food, etc.
- To facilitate the cross-border victims to their country.
- To reintegrate the trafficked victims into their society and mainly families.
- To offer rehabilitation services to the victims.

Ujjawala Scheme Components

The components of the Ujjawala Scheme are- Rescue, Prevention, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Repatriation.

Rescue work Under Ujjawala Scheme

- The rescue work starts with information gathering. This process involves Police, Youth Groups, NGOs, Women's Groups, Panchayat, Hotels, tour operators, etc.
- After the rescue, the transportation process of the victim from the place to the shelter home starts.
- During the interim period, Ujjawala Scheme will provide food, clothing, shelter, medical aid, and other basic needs.

Rehabilitation

- The organization set up the Protective and Rehabilitative (P&R) Homes.
- Basic amenities will be provided.
- Ujjawala Scheme also provides medical care such as medicine, hospitalization, etc.
- Legal aid is also provided which includes court work and documentation related to the victim's court case. Victims are the main witness against the trafficker.
- Ujjawala Scheme also provided administrative costs.
- The majority of the rescued victims are children so the Ujjawala Scheme provide notebooks, school uniform, and other costs that may have to be incurred.
- The scheme also offers vocational training, and income generation activities that would help the victims to support themselves.

Reintegration

- The scheme covers the travel cost of the victim and escorts from the destination area to home.
- Ujjawala Scheme also set halfway home, where a group of victims, ready to live and work.

Repatriation

- The scheme also provides costs incurred in procedures for getting the repatriation state of the victim.
- It would also cover all the travel costs for the cross-border victims.

Prevention of Trafficking under the Ujjawala Scheme

- Forming and functioning community vigilance groups.
- The scheme organizes seminars and workshops with all sensitization and representatives of gram panchayat corporation.
- Awareness programs are also organized as well.

- Printing and distribution of awareness generation materials such as leaflets, posters, and pamphlets.

Ujjawala Scheme- Eligibility for the Implementing Organizations

Those organizations who are interested in this service need to fulfill the eligibility criteria as follows.

- The registration of that organization must be done under the law. They should have a managing body with its functions and powers clearly in sync with the framework and guidelines provided in the constitution for such organizations.
- The organization must not have a primary objective to gain profit.
- The organization needs to have at least 3 years of experience post-registration.
- The organization must be financially sound with proper availability of resources and experienced personnel to handle all the delicate issues.

Implementing Agencies of Ujjawala Scheme

- Women and Child Welfare Department/Social Welfare Department of State Government
- Urban Local Bodies
- Voluntary Organisations
- Women's Development Corporations/Centres
- Renowned Public-Private Trusts

Significance of Ujjawala Scheme

The major benefits of the Ujjawala Scheme are:

- It would provide a quality independent life for children and women who are suffering from sexual exploitation, and trafficking.
- It would also enhance the social stability of the victims in society by boosting the inclusive growth of all the sections.
- This would change the life of the children and women who have suffered.