

Guidelines

**MUKHYAMANTRI KANYA
BIBAHA YOJANA**

**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD
DEVELOPMENT**

Government of Odisha

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I. Introduction

1. The Government of Odisha is committed to the social and economic empowerment of women. Recognizing the disproportionate financial burden that marriage ceremonies place on families, the State has introduced **Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana (MKBY)**. This scheme is designed to offer state-supported marriage assistance, alleviating financial burdens while promoting socially responsible practices.
2. The scheme aims to promote social cohesion and equitable access to marriage by organizing wedding ceremonies for eligible couples in Odisha.
3. These events will reduce household expenses and uphold dignity, legality and simplicity in matrimonial practices.
4. This scheme aims to promote widow remarriage by providing support for their weddings, while simultaneously discouraging early marriages by covering only those girls who have attained 18 years of age or above. It also seeks to encourage the registration of marriages under the Odisha Marriage Rules, enhance awareness about women's legal rights within marriage, and reinforce the significance of dowry prohibition. Together, these measures intend to foster a culture of responsible, lawful, and dignified matrimonial practices across the State.
5. Financial assistance provided under the scheme will be disbursed directly to beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, thereby ensuring that funds reach the intended recipients without delays or leakages.
6. Regular monitoring and social audits will be conducted to track outcomes and make mid-course corrections as needed, ensuring the integrity and impact of the initiative.

II. Goals & Objectives

Goal: To promote social security and gender equity by supporting women in marriage, encouraging widow remarriage, and preventing child marriages through targeted financial assistance, thereby reducing financial vulnerability and empowering beneficiaries with dignity and choice.

Objectives:

1. To support economically disadvantaged families in organizing marriages with dignity.

2. To encourage widow remarriage while preventing child marriages.
3. To discourage the practice of dowry and promote simple and graceful marriages.
4. To encourage legal marriages & timely registration of marriages.
5. To reduce wedding-related financial distress.

III. **Target Beneficiaries and Coverage**

1. The scheme will be operationalized in all districts of the State.
2. The scheme will be operational for the period 2025-2026 to 2029-2030.
3. The scheme will cover couples who fulfil the eligibility criteria prescribed under the scheme within the budget available for the scheme.

IV. **Beneficiary eligibility criteria**

1. Both the bride and groom must be permanent residents of Odisha.
2. Age criteria:

i. Bride: 18 to 35 years
ii. Groom: 21 to 35 years

3. The bride and groom shall preferably be persons being married for the first time.
4. However, a woman who is a widow and is seeking remarriage shall also be considered for coverage under the scheme.
5. Only one eligible woman per family shall be covered under the scheme.
6. The bride or the groom themselves or either of their families should not have received marriage assistance from either the State or Central Government schemes.

V. **Prioritization of beneficiaries**

Applications shall be processed on a first-come, first serve basis. Prioritization of

the beneficiaries shall be done in case the number of applications exceeds the number of beneficiaries to be covered in a district. Beneficiaries from households receiving financial assistance under social protection schemes of the State and Central Govt. shall be given priority in the following order:

1. Widows
2. Persons with disabilities (PwDs)
3. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PVTGs), Scheduled Tribes(ST), Scheduled Castes(SC)
4. Applicants from low income households

VI. Benefits under the scheme

Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana, each eligible bride will receive a total financial assistance of ₹51,000 to support her marriage and ease the financial burden on her family.

1. Out of this total amount, ₹35,000 will be provided as direct financial assistance to the beneficiary.
2. The financial support will be disbursed through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system to ensure transparency, efficiency, and elimination of intermediaries whereby the funds will be directly credited to a single-holder savings bank account that must be in the name of the beneficiary.
3. Further, each eligible bride will receive wedding gift items worth Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) to support her new beginning. The gift package includes one bridal saree along with essential accessories such as bindi, bangles, a pair of traditional anklets (Paunji), a pair of toe rings (Jhunta), utensils etc. These would be procured from Utkalika, under the Department of HT&H.
4. The group marriages would be organised with the assistance of Implementing Agencies, which shall be local NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), societies, trusts and similar organizations possessing experience, credibility, and outreach capacity in the respective districts.
5. The Implementing Agencies shall be responsible for identifying eligible beneficiaries, verifying their documents, and submitting the cases to the District Level Committee (committee constituted under SUBHADRA) for approval. They will arrange logistics and organize the marriage ceremony in a

dignified and appropriate manner.

6. The IAs have to ensure that the rituals are conducted in accordance with cultural practices while adhering to legal norms and ensuring registration of the marriages as per law.
7. To ensure smooth organization and dignified execution of the marriage ceremonies, an amount of ₹6,000 per beneficiary will be allocated to the Implementing Agencies. The allocated amount will cover logistical arrangements such as decoration, basic refreshments, seating and arrangement of wedding officials required for the solemnization of the marriage events.

Component	Amount	Remarks
Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)	₹35,000	Transferred directly to bride's bank account within 7 working days of the marriage registration, ensuring financial independence and empowerment.
Wedding Gift Items	₹10,000	Traditional items including saree, bangles, bindi, anklets, toe rings and utensils to be procured transparently by the Handloom and Textiles Department. The wedding gift items should be suitably packed in a gift package or in a suitcase.
Event Management by NGO	₹6,000	To be allocated to implementing NGO/agency for logistics like decoration, refreshments, seating arrangements, and official coordination.

VII. Beneficiary Identification & Required Documents

1. Eligible couples shall submit their physical applications to the designated Implementing Agencies selected under the scheme at the districts.
2. The IA will be responsible for receiving, collating, and maintaining the record

of applications from all potential beneficiaries within their assigned areas. Records of beneficiaries should include personal details, category, socio-economic background, photograph of marriage, marital status etc.

3. Upon receipt of applications, the IA will conduct preliminary verification including background checks and ensure completeness of forms. They will coordinate with local Anganwadi Workers for on-ground assistance wherever necessary.
4. IAs shall scrutinize and verify the applications for eligibility, correctness of documents, and compliance with scheme guidelines.
5. After verification, the IA will submit the list of eligible beneficiaries to the DSWO for placing it before the District-level Committee chaired by the District Magistrate for final approval.
6. An undertaking shall be obtained from both the bride and the groom at the time of application, declaring that they have not availed or applied for any similar marriage assistance benefits under any State or Central Government schemes.
7. Each applicant will be required to submit a self-declaration confirming their eligibility under the scheme.
8. Mandatory documents to be submitted by the applicants:

i. Aadhaar card of both bride and groom
ii. Single-holder bank account passbook in the name of the bride
In case of prioritization of beneficiaries, the following documents may be submitted by the beneficiaries wherever applicable:
i. Death certificate of husband in case of widows
ii. Disability certificate
iii. Caste Certificate
iv. Income Certificate

VIII. Responsibilities of the applicants / beneficiaries

1. After approval of the final list of beneficiaries by the District Level Committee, the beneficiaries shall file applications with the Registrar of Marriages for registration of marriages.
2. Group marriage shall be conducted after the mandatory notice period for filing of objections.
3. To ensure efficient and transparent disbursement of benefits, applicants are required to complete the process of opening a single-holder bank account and enabling Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in advance.
4. Applicants must provide accurate and truthful information during the application process. If it is discovered at any point that a beneficiary was ineligible for the benefit, immediate termination of the benefit, recovery of any disbursed benefits, and legal or administrative actions for fraud will be undertaken.
5. In the unfortunate instance of demise of an approved beneficiary, before the conduct of the marriage, the assistance approved shall be declared void, and the undisbursed benefit cannot be claimed on behalf of the deceased.
6. In case of any overpayment/ erroneous payment due to administrative errors, beneficiaries are obligated to repay the excess amount on their own volition or as soon as it is identified and communicated to them by the authorities.

IX. Scheme Conditions

1. Benefits under the marriage assistance scheme shall be given on "first come, first serve basis".
2. Group marriages shall be conducted at a suitable function at the district level.
3. Only eligible and approved couples will be enrolled in the scheduled marriage ceremony.
4. The cut-off for inclusion/ selection shall be 60 days before the scheduled date to allow for verification and planning.
5. Registrar of Marriages shall be present at the venue of marriage and hand over marriage certificates to the beneficiaries.
6. DBT to the beneficiary shall be done within 7 working days of the marriage registration.
7. The Department of Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts would assist in the

procurement of the bridal sarees and accessories included in the wedding gift package. The Department will adhere to standard procurement protocols to maintain transparency, cost-effectiveness, and timely delivery of items across all districts.

X. Implementing Agencies (IAs)

1. Implementing agencies (IAs) are proposed to be engaged at the district level for conducting mass marriages under Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana (MKBY).
2. Engagement of such agencies will enable decentralized implementation of activities proposed under the scheme with a focus on cultural appropriateness, administrative compliance, and efficiency.
3. The implementing agencies shall act as facilitators in the community, support awareness generation, responsible for mobilizing and handholding eligible couples, coordinating with local authorities, conduct marriage ceremonies, and ensuring lawful and dignified solemnization of marriages.
4. **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - i. Implementing Agencies may include reputed and capable Philanthropic and charitable **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Society Organizations (CSOs)**, those who have considerable experience of working on social welfare, women's empowerment, or community-based services.
 - ii. The agencies must possess strong community linkages, operational presence in the districts, and administrative capacity to support scheme objectives at the district level.
5. **Selection Mechanism:**
 - i. Selection of Implementing Agencies shall be done in a decentralised manner at the district level.
 - ii. Department of Women & Child Development, Odisha shall issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) inviting applications from eligible agencies.
 - iii. Interested organisations shall submit their applications to the District Collectors in a manner prescribed in the EOI.
 - iv. The Office of the Collector shall be the sole authority for finalization of the selection process and issuance of the final selection list of implementing agencies under this EOI at the district level. For the purpose of selection of implementing agencies, the Committee at the district level, constituted for approval of SUBHADRA beneficiaries would be utilized.

6. Responsibilities of Empanelled Agencies

- i. Facilitate community mobilization and identification of eligible couples in accordance with the scheme's eligibility norms.
- ii. Undertake awareness generation activities/ publicity in the district with support from the district administration.
- iii. Support and complete the application process in collaboration with district level functionaries.
- iv. Support DSWO in approval of the final list of beneficiaries in the District Level Committee constituted for SUBHADRA.
- v. Coordinate all arrangements related to the group marriage ceremonies, including venue selection, decoration, refreshments, seating arrangements, and safety measures.
- vi. Organize marriages in coordination with local authorities, ensuring legal and cultural compliance.
- vii. Ensure distribution of wedding gifts to the married couples during the marriage ceremony.
- viii. Ensure the presence of the **Registrar of Marriages** for on-site legal registration and issuance of marriage certificates.
- ix. Maintain proper documentation such as beneficiary details, event reports, utilization certificates, and photographs of the ceremonies, to be submitted in formats prescribed by the Department.
- x. Ensure digital compilation of beneficiary data and ensure that is securely stored at the district level to facilitate monitoring, verification, duplication checks, and periodic audits.
- xi. Each Implementing Agency shall receive a support amount of ₹6,000 per wedding/ couple to manage all permissible logistical expenses.

XI. Roles and Responsibilities of District Officials

1. District Social Welfare Office (DSWO)

- i. Receive the verified applications from the Implementing Agency; get the list placed before the District Level Committee (constituted for SUBHADRA).
- ii. Coordinate with Department of Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts for supply

of wedding gift items.

- iii. Maintain official accounts and ensure transfer of funds to the concerned entities/ beneficiaries as per the scheme guidelines.
- iv. Monitor the organization of mass marriages and ensure all mandated requirements are fulfilled.
- v. Ensure that the data of beneficiaries is digitally compiled by the Implementing agencies and securely stored at the district level to facilitate monitoring, verification, duplication checks, and periodic audits. The data is to be shared with the state level for monitoring and verification purpose.
- vi. Collaborate with Implementing Agencies during marriage events.

2. Marriage Registration Officer

- ii. Receive and process applications from the intending couples.
- iii. Guide the Implementing Agencies and intending couples on necessary documents and procedure towards registration.
- iv. Ensure on-site legal registration of marriages and issue of marriage certificates.
- v. Maintain accurate records of registered marriages for reporting and monitoring purposes.

XII. Monitoring

1. The State Task Force for Empowerment and Protection of Girls and Women constituted under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha and comprising of the members listed below, vide notification number 486 dated 06/01/2025 shall be designated as the State Level Committee for overall supervision of the Scheme. The State Level Committee shall provide policy direction, approve annual plans, and review scheme performance. Meeting of the State Task Force should be held annually.

Sl. No.	Designation of the Member	Position
1	Chief Secretary	Chairperson
2	Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary	Vice Chairperson
3	Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to	Member

	Govt., Home Department	
4	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development	Member
5	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Finance Department	Member
6	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department	Member
7	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School & Mass Education Department	Member
8	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Labour and ESI Department	Member
9	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Social Security & Empowerment of PwDs	Member
10	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Skill Development & Technical Education	Member
11	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST & SC Dev., Minorities & BC Welfare Dept.	Member
12	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department	Member
13	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Sports and Youth Services Department	Member
14	Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Higher Education Department	Member
15	Director, ICDS and SW	Member
16	FA-cum-Special Secretary, W&CD Department	Member

17	Special Secretary/Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary (Scheme Section), W&CD Department	Member Convener
18	Director General of Police, Odisha	Member
19	Additional D.G. (Police), HRPC, Odisha	Member
20	IG Crime, Odisha	Member
21	General Manager, East Coast Railway	Member
22	IG-cum-PCSC, Railway Protection Force	Member
23	Collector, Khurda	Member
24	Collector, Nayagarh	Member
25	Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority	Member
26	Chairperson, Odisha State Commission for Women	Member
27	Chairperson, Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights	Member
28	Representative of Development Partners (UNFPA, UNICEF)	Member
29	The President, Vijaya, Plot No-417, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar	Member
30	Director, Women Studies, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar	Member
31	Representative from SLBC	Member

2. Department Level Executive Committee

An Executive Committee will be constituted at the Department level for the overall coordination and monitoring of the scheme. The committee will include the

following members:

Sl. No.	Designation of the Member	Position
1	Principal Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development	Chairperson
2	Director, ICDS & SW	Member
3	Financial Advisor, WCD Department	Member
4	District Collectors from 2 districts	Member
5	District Social Welfare Officers from 2 districts	Member
6	Additional Secretary, WEA	Member Convenor

3. The District Monitoring Committee

At the district level, the existing committee under SUBHADRA with the members detailed below shall function as District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) which will be responsible for the overall supervision and implementation of the scheme. The committee will include the following members:

Sl. No.	Designation of the Member	Position
1	Collector & District Magistrate	Chairperson
2	Additional District Magistrate	Member
3	Chief Development Officer (CDO) cum Executive Officer (EO) Zilla Parishad	Member
4	Civil Supplies Officer	Member
5	District Agriculture Officer	Member
6	District Social Security Officer	Member

7	District Social Welfare Officer	Member Convener
8	Lead District Manager	Member
9	Three Non-Official Members from Civil Society Organization nominated by the Chairperson	Member

XIII. Financial Implication

1. Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana is a state funded scheme.
2. Total Budget of the scheme has been approved for Rs. 59.30 crores (Rupees Fifty Nine crores and Thirty lakhs only) for a period of 5 years commencing from FY 2025-26.
3. Rs. 57.65 Crores (Rupees Fifty Seven Crores and Sixty five lakhs only) is the Scheme Budget which includes marriage assistance and other cost.
4. Rs. 1.65 crores (Rupees One crore sixty five lakhs only) is the contingency cost at the rate of 3% of the Scheme Budget.

Financial Year	Scheme Budget (in Cr)	Administrative Cost @ 3% (in Cr)	Total Budget (in Cr)
2025-26	11.65	0.33	11.98
2026-27	11.50	0.33	11.83
2027-28	11.50	0.33	11.83
2028-29	11.50	0.33	11.83
2029-30	11.50	0.33	11.83
Total	57.65	1.65	59.30

XIV. Nodal Department

1. Women and Child Development Department (DWCD) shall be the nodal department for the implementation of the Scheme.
2. DWCD shall issue periodic instructions and standard operating procedures to enable successful implementation of the scheme.
3. In case there is any dispute, regarding the interpretation of any provision or implementation of this Scheme, the decision of DWCD, would be final and binding.

XV. Application scrutiny process by Implementing Agencies

1. Comprehensive Application Collection Framework

A. Application Submission

1. Eligible couples shall submit their applications physically to the designated Implementing Agencies (IAs) in the concerned district.
2. Applications shall be invited through notification by district administration. All applications will be accepted only till 60 days prior to the proposed marriage date for processing.
3. The Implementing Agencies shall maintain application collection centers and conduct outreach to ensure accessibility for all communities, including low-literacy households.

B. First-Tier Verification (Implementing Agency)

1. Preliminary verification by IA after receipt of applications from the intending couples.
2. Checks include:
 - Document completeness as per checklist,
 - Basic eligibility – age, residency, bank account validity,
 - Initial background verification through community contacts, AWWs, WSHGs.
3. Incomplete applications shall be returned with written instructions for correction.
4. IAs shall maintain records of all applications (tracking numbers, submission dates, and verification status) for monitoring and audit.

5. IAs shall submit the verified applications with the DSWO for placing before the District Level Committee for final approval.

C. Second-Tier Verification & Final Approval (DSWO & District Level Committee)

1. District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) to verify the applications/ get the same verified by district officials submitted by the IA and place the comprehensive list of applications before the District Level Committee for final approval.
2. Scope of verification:
 - Comprehensive review of verification reports submitted by IAs,
 - Confirmation of budget availability within district allocation,
 - Preparation of provisional beneficiary list.
3. The District Level Committee (DLC) chaired by the Collector shall give final approval in 15 days.
4. Publication of Beneficiary List: This shall be done for ensuring transparency and public disclosure.
 - Display at Collectorate, Block, and Gram Panchayat offices,
 - Upload on WCD Department & District website,
5. Approved lists shall be preserved at district and state level for audit, monitoring, and transparency.

XVI. Payment Process

1. **Comprehensive DBT Framework:** The payment process shall be executed entirely through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism to ensure transparency, efficiency, and the financial assistance shall be transferred directly into the bride's single-holder bank account.
2. The beneficiary must ensure that the account is Aadhar and DBT enabled.
3. **Marriage Ceremony Integration and Payment Trigger:** Payments shall be released only after the successful solemnization of marriage and within 7 working days of the marriage registration.

XVII. Formats

1. **Application format for beneficiaries: Annexure-I.**
2. **Format for compilation of beneficiary data by Implementing Agencies: Annexure-II.**

Annexure-I

**Application Form for "Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana"
Department of Women & Child Development**

Government of Odisha

To,

Secretary

Name of the Implementing Agency_____

Block_____ District _____

Subject: Application to participate in the mass marriage program under
"Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana"

Part A. Details of Bride

1. Name of the Bride: _____
2. Date of Birth & Age: _____ (Attach proof)
3. _____

Photograph of Bride

- Father's / Mother's Name: _____
4. Address(Permanent): _____
 5. District: _____ Block: _____ GP/Ward: _____
 6. Contact No.: _____
 7. Aadhaar No. (Bride): _____

Part B. Details of Groom

1. Name of the Groom: _____
2. Date of Birth & Age: _____ (Attach proof)
3. Father's / Mother's Name: _____
4. _____

Photograph of Groom

Address(Permanent): _____

District: _____ Block: _____ GP/ Ward: _____

6. Aadhaar No. (Groom): _____

7. Contact No.: _____

Part C. Marriage Details

1. Place of Marriage: _____

2. Whether first marriage: ☐ Yes ☐ No

(In case of Widows, attach Death certificate of Husband)

Part D. Bank Details (Bride's Account Only)

1. Bank Name: _____

2. Branch: _____

3. Account Holder's Name: _____

4. Account No.: _____ (Aadhar and DBT enabled)

5. IFSC Code: _____

(Attach copy of passbook)

Part E. Category & Prioritization (Tick as applicable & Attach documents)

☐ Widow (Attach Death Certificate) ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Person with Disability (Attach Disability Certificate) ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ PVTG / ST / SC (Attach Caste Certificate) ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Low Income Household (Attach Income Certificate) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part F. Mandatory Documents Attached

1. Aadhaar Card (Bride & Groom) – ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Bank Passbook (Bride) – ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

3. Age Proof (Bride & Groom) – ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

G. Declaration / Undertaking

We, the undersigned Bride and Groom, hereby declare that:

1. We are permanent residents of Odisha.
2. We fulfill the prescribed age criteria under the scheme.
3. Neither we nor our families have availed or applied for any similar marriage assistance under any State or Central Government scheme.
4. The information furnished by us is true to the best of our knowledge. If found false, we shall be liable for cancellation of benefits and legal action.

Signature of Bride: _____ **Signature of the Groom** _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Date: _____

Format for compilation of beneficiary data by Implementing Agencies		
Sl.No	Information	Details
1.	Name of Bride (Applicant)	
2.	Father's / Guardian's Name	
3.	Address (Village/GP/Block/District)	
4.	Caste Category (SC/ST/PVTG)	
5.	Date of Birth & Age of Bride	
6.	Aadhaar No. (Bride)	
7.	Name of Groom	
8.	Age of Groom	
9.	Aadhaar No. (Groom)	
10.	Date of Marriage	
11.	Venue of Marriage	
12.	Bank A/c No. & IFSC (Bride)	
13.	Amount Sanctioned (₹)	
14.	Date of Disbursement of funds	

15.	In case of prioritization , category of the beneficiary	
16.	Submission of document in support of the prioritization of beneficiary	
17.	Photograph of the married couple to be attached	

- A group photograph & video of the marriage ceremony alongwith individual photographs of the couples also to be documented by the Implementing Agencies.