

Progress - 2020

**State Ministry of Women & Child Development, Pre Schools,
Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services.**

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Message from the Hon. Minister of Education

The sphere of education encompasses the most challenging role of the modern human resource development process. For, the literacy level of citizens has a direct link with the development and advancement of that particular country. The timely importance of having present Sri Lanka's Education sector involvement in achieving development goals too has emerged. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education has been established amalgamating all parallel institutions functioning in the Education sector and placing several State Ministries under its purview, giving it a new appearance. This initiation, which complies with the National Policy Framework-Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour, would ensure an education that aligns with the country and harmonizes with the modern world. I consider it a privilege to issue a message to the first Progress Report to be presented by the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre Schools and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services, one of the State Ministries functioning under the purview of the Ministry of Education, in the Parliament in 2020.

Besides the scope of women and children, the prime responsibility of the State Ministry is to provide the entire student generation in our country with necessary resources and services, enabling them to claim education and reap its benefits without any discrimination. The new approaches have given priority to develop education infrastructure facilities of remote areas offering the people the opportunity to reap the benefit of education and decreasing the trend of overcrowding alleged popular schools in main cities as well as Colombo in particular. The government's prime concern is to provide every child with the opportunity to pursue studies in any stream, i.e. Science, Arts, Commerce, and Technology, according to their talents and ambitions. Accordingly, I wish every success to the endeavour of this State Ministry to usher in a contented and secure society for women and children where they may realize their aspirations.

Prof. G. L. Peiris

Minister of Education



**Message from the Hon. State Minister of Women and Child Development,
Pre Schools and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education
Services**

During the journey of Sri Lanka towards development, strength, and prosperity, the well-being of women and children, as well as the human resource development achieved through academic excellence, are of profound importance. For the purpose, we need to bring up a younger generation armed with knowledge, skills, and values to pave the way for women and children to live in a safe and secure society, reap the benefit of development, and in particular, to develop the country achieving its goals. Considering the above requirements and in keeping with the national policy framework-Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor, the present government established the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre Schools and Primary Education, School Infrastructure, and Education Services. This newly established Ministry, the new version of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Social Security as it functioned at the beginning of 2020, has launched numerous programs for the advancement of children from early childhood to 18 years of age and women.

The State Ministry has devised many programs for early childhood development, pre-school education and school infrastructure development, and socio-economic empowerment of women. Further, we have taken steps to fortify the services provided by the government to women and children and the education sector amid the current situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Measures have been taken to develop the physical infrastructure of schools and maintain other welfare facilities efficiently. The goal of our policies is to direct our younger generation and women towards a contented life where they can overcome challenges. I wish to see a productive and contented nation in the future as a result of the efficient handling of affairs related to child, women, and education sectors, according to the National Policy Framework-Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor.

Piyal Nishantha De Silva

**State Minister of Women and Child Development, Pre Schools and Primary Education,
School Infrastructure, and Education Services**



Message from the State Secretary to the State Ministry of Women & Child Development, Pre Schools, Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services.

The scope of this new Ministry was expanded by assigning new subject areas, i. e. Primary Education, Educational Services, and School Infrastructure to achieve the development goals of the country. Accordingly, the Ministry is responsible for fulfilling a heavy workload in the women and child sector and the educational sector at divisional, district, and national levels in keeping with the National Policy Framework, “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”.

For the purpose, around 1700 Field Officers have been deployed under the child and women sector. Further, the formulation and regulation of policies and plans related to pre-schools and early childhood development and implementation of overall human resource development programs, including infrastructure, are being carried out island wide.

The Ministry has taken steps to raise the nutrition of children, protect children’s rights, strengthen functions of children’s homes child councils, and develop new plans and policies for vulnerable children. Further, it operates round-the-clock Child Helpline to take action promptly on child abuse cases, provides psycho-social support, develops school child protection committees, and carries out efficiently the supervision process of child abuse cases.

The Ministry implements multiple numbers of programs for the mental, economic, and social empowerment of women. Specifically, measures are in place to commence new programs to provide relief to women who have been oppressed by the informal microloan process due to abject poverty.

In compliance with the policies and guidelines of the Ministry of Education, this Ministry has taken action to provide sanitary facilities, including infrastructure, to schools scattered all over the country, implement nutritional programs, and provide school uniforms, textbooks, educational aids, and lunch. Specifically, since measures required to promote skills of Information

Technology of those children are in place, we will be able to mould a younger generation armed with modern technology, knowledge, and capabilities along with correct vision and morale aligned with indigenusness. The Ministry staff, under the direction and guidance of the Hon. Minister of Education and the Hon. State Minister, discharge their duties with great dedication to render a valuable service utilizing provisions received for the above activities in 2020 even in the presence of COVID-19.

I wish every success to the government's endeavor to steer the country towards a balanced development based on the National Policy Framework, "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour".

K.M.S.D. Jayasekara
State Secretary
State Ministry of Women and Child Development,
Pre-schools and Primary Education,
School Infrastructure and Education Services

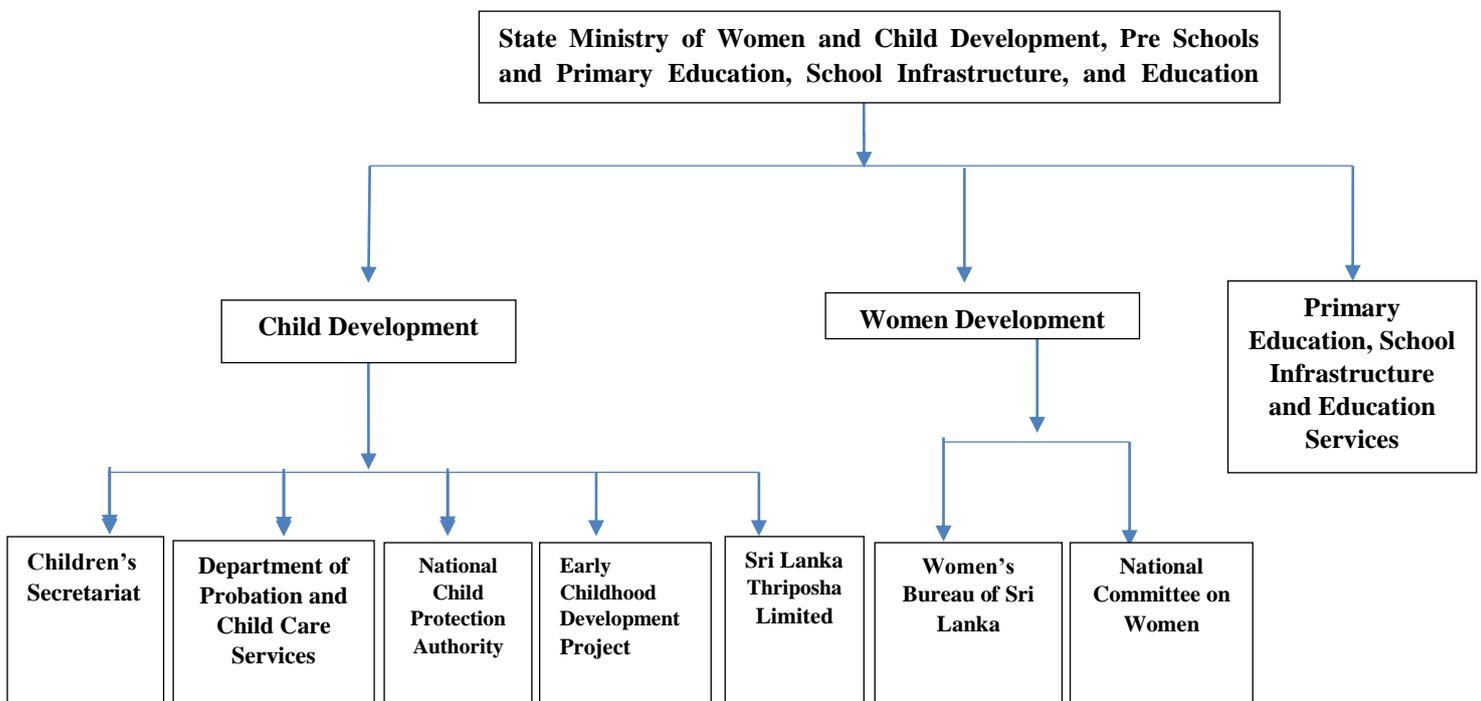
Vision

A sustainably developed prosperous country of the productive citizenry, contented families and social equality where the identity of Sri Lanka reigns

Mission

To formulate and execute programmes for providing and enhancing legal, institutional and human resource services and infrastructure for the economic, social and educational empowerment of women and children considering national priorities and requirements along with international standards

Departments and Divisions under the State Ministry



Special Priorities

1. Implementing a program to ensure the security of women.
2. Providing relief to rural women victimized by unregulated microfinance schemes.
3. Implementing permanent mechanisms to provide protection and minimize adversities to persons subject to regular vulnerabilities, especially women and children.
4. Establishing a methodology to provide women with necessary knowledge, skills and time to give birth to a healthy child, to look after their children with motherly care and to guide their children.
5. Introducing special child nutrition programs to address malnutrition among all children.
6. Taking necessary measures to ensure the rights of the children in accordance with the International Convention on Rights of the Child, with the integration of all the relevant institutions.
7. Establishing a section in each District Court dedicated to resolving backlog of all court cases pertaining to children.
8. Establishing a national program to introduce a “Foster Family System” for all children in child care centers.
9. Expanding the concept of “Child Friendly School”
10. Expansion of pre-school education based on National Preschool Policy under state supervision.
11. Transforming rural schools into schools that are attractive to students.
12. Implementing a special program to develop class rooms and sanitary equipment, teachers, and students, restrooms, health facilities and infrastructure facilities in all schools.
13. Taking measures to launch school textbooks, syllabi, teachers’ guides via digital mode.
14. Establishing the Cluster Schools System

Values

1. Correct vision
2. Accountability
3. Priority for service to the public.
4. Promptness and correct response
5. Respect and mutual understanding
6. Participation and sharing.
7. Professional competence and efficiency