

Impact on Linkages Between Women Empowerment and Sustainable Development: A Perspective

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ABSTRACT

Women's Empowerment has been an issue of immense discussions and contemplation over the last few decades world-wide. This as a motivation has been on top of the arrangements of most government plans & programs as well. Women are assuming greater and bigger role in financial field: as specialists, entrepreneurs, consumers, business visionaries and investors. The empowerment is a guide to help women to achieve equality with men or, at least, to reduce gender gap considerably. Women play an exceptionally vital role in the advancement of society. Empowering women is the only solution for all questions. The separated and abused women is seen everywhere throughout the world. The empowerment is a remedy to help women to reduce gender gap and giving them strength to achieve equality. It is increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights. Women are also allowed to participate in political and public life. In this paper an attempt has been made to identify the present status of women in modern India and also review the ongoing schemes and programmes of Women Empowerment being offered by the Government for the sustainable development. The authors in this paper will also make an attempt to highlight the Budget of Ministry of Women Child Development. The focal point of this research study is to study the contribution of women empowerment in inclusive growth and development of the country.

KEY WORDS: Women Empowerment, Government Programmes, Ministry of Women Child Development, Sustainable Development,

1. INTRODUCTION

Women Empowerment was introduced at the women conference in 1985 at Nairobi. Empowerment is characterized as the extension in women's capacity and opportunity to settle on these key decisions: a procedure that happens after some time and includes women as operators who can define decisions, control assets and take choices influencing vital life results. The most common explanation of women empowerment is the ability to exercise full control over one's action. India today is at the cusp of a paradigm change in its growth and its position in the world. We (both men and women) must act decisively to capture this opportunity. In previous times, the status of women in India was inferior to men in the practical life. However, they had a higher status in scriptures. They are considered as the perfect home maker in the world. With their incomparable quality of calmness of their mind, they can easily handle even toughest situation. Indian women are completely devoted to their families. They're preached in the names of Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Durga, Parvati and Goddess Kali. Their condition remains unchanged even during the modern times with only little changes. In India, women were never given any right of liberty & equality. Their condition becomes even worse when they gave birth to girls. However, women play very important role in the society.

PRESENT STATUS OF WOMEN IN MODERN INDIA

During this time there was a little advancement in the women status. There were numerous women reformers in India who worked for the inspire and improvement of their female counterparts. The begum of Bhopal discarded the “purdah” & fought in the revolt of 1857. Their education was elevated and English was introduced during this period. Various female writers emerged in the society. In the modern time, women in India were given freedom and right such as freedom of expression and equality as well as the right to be educated. Different prestigious positions at this period were held by women. They are enjoying the ‘ladies first’ facility in different fields. However, some problems such as dowry, domestic violence, sex selective abortion are still prevalent. Preventive measures need to be taken to ensure that women are empowered in India.

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Women are educated about the social benefits including awareness about the existing social problems in the society, good recognition & image in the family & community, role in making important decision in their family, plan and promote better education for their children, taking care of health of the aged and the children. Women are also allowed to participate in political and public life. Therefore, they are given a chance to serve the community including fighting for the basics amenities & welfare needs of the village community such as: Safe drinking water, Public sanitation and Street lights Chance to help the weaker people like disable and the aged.

EMPOWERING WOMEN BY EDUCATION

Most women are given a chance of finishing their education to the degree level. They are discouraged from getting married and raising a family when they are young. There are number of women education grants that offer help to women from poor background in order to give them a chance to be educated. There are various scholarships that benefits women in India to achieve their career by going back to school or various training institutions where they can go for further education. Also, many NGO’s in India offer support to women in order to benefit them in education. The government of India is also setting aside funds that are used to empower women and other initiatives that will empower them. These grants for women get most supports from different companies after realizing that women can perform better than men if they are well educated and equipped.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN BUSINESS

The government of India set aside some reasonable amount of money which women who have business ideas can borrow in order to start businesses. Women are encouraged to start small business in order to have their own source of income thus they become independent. Various non-governmental organizations also offer financial support to women in India and encourage and teach them how they can be making their own money by starting various business activities. The status of the women in India has greatly improved and there are many women who are holding high position in the government offices. This has proved that women can be even better than men if they are given an opportunity.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To conceptualize the Present status of women in modern India.
- To highlight the ongoing Schemes and programmes of Women Empowerment being offered by the Government in India.
- To showcase the significant relationship of Women Empowerment and Sustainable Development of Rural India this leads to inclusive growth and development.
- To review the budget allocation of 2016-2017 of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

VARIOUS GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AND SCHEMES FOR WOMENEMPOWERMENT

- 1) **“Beti Bachao Beti Padhao”**: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative of Government aims to address the issue of declining in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) through a mass campaign across the country and focused intervention in 100 selected districts low on CSR. Scheme has been extended to another 61 Districts out of the 200 High Burden Districts where CSR is adverse. The overall Goal of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme is celebrate the girl Child and enable her education. The specific objectives of the Scheme are (i) prevent gender blazed sex selective elimination (ii) ensures survival (iii) protection of the girl child and (iv) to ensure education and participation of the girl child. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. The District collectors/Deputy Commissioners is the nodal officer at the district level for the implementation.
- 2) **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)**: The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, (RMK) is an Apex micro finance organization under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, exclusively for women was set up in 1993 for the purpose of providing micro loans to poor women through Government & Non government organizations, women federations and cooperative banks. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) extends loans through a client friendly, without collateral and hassle free mechanism for livelihoods, micro enterprises, housing and family needs in both rural and urban areas. RMK has taken a number of promotional measures to popularize the concept of micro financing, thrift and credit, formation and stabilization of SHGs and also enterprise development for poor women. (ibid)
- 3) **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)** : The scheme was launched in 2010. The scheme is being implemented in 205 districts across the country on pilot basis. This is a Scheme for adolescent girls from 11 to 18 years also known as SABLA. It is being implemented using the platform of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme. The scheme has two major components namely nutrition and non-nutrition component. Nutrition is being given in the form of Take Home Ration or Hot Cooked Meal for 11 to 14 years out of school girls and 14 to 18 years to all AGs, out of school and in school girls. In the Non Nutrition Component, the out of school Adolescent Girls 11 to 18 years are being provided IFA supplementation, Health check-up and Referral services, Nutrition and Health Education, Counseling and guidance on family welfare,

Adolescent reproductive Sexual Health (ARSH), child care practices and Life Skill Education and vocational training. (ibid)

- 4) **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY):** The Scheme envisages providing cash assistance directly to pregnant and lactating women (P & L Women) from the end of 2nd trimester of pregnancy up to 6 months after delivery. ` 6000 are provided to the pregnant and lactating women in response to fulfilling specific conditions related to health & nutrition of mother and child. The scheme would address short term income support objectives with long term objective of behavior and attitudinal change. The scheme is being implemented in 53 districts across the country on a pilot basis. The scheme attempts to partly compensate for wage loss to pregnant and lactating women both prior to and after delivery of the child. (ibid)
- 5) **Sukanya Samridhi Account:** It can be opened at any time from the birth of a girl child till she attains the age of 10 years, with a minimum deposit of Rs 1000. A maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh can be deposited during the financial year. The account can be opened in any post office or authorised branches of commercial banks." The scheme primarily ensures equitable share to a girl child in resources and savings of a family in which she is generally discriminated as against a male child".
- 6) **Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojna:** This scheme was announced by our Honorable Prime Minister of India Shree Narendra Modi on 1st April 2016. The main aim of this scheme is to providing free LPG connections by Oil Marketing Companies to the women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL). The Scheme will cover 5 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) household over period of 3 years. The main objective of this scheme is to providing clean fuel to all poor household. Therefore the Union Budget 2016-17 allocated Rs. 2000 crore to provide free LPG connections to 1.5 crore women belonging to Bellow Poverty Line (BPL) families during the year 2016-17.
- 7) **Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana:** With a view to strengthen the Mahila Mandals and to ensure that they are involved in the process of development, the department during 1998-99 has introduced Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana. A sum of Rs. 65.00 lacs has been provided during 2004-05 to provide incentives to Mahila Mandals. The incentives being provided are based upon their performance in various fields such as Family Planning and Child Welfare, Promotion of Small Savings, Eradication of social evils and participation in literacy campaigns.
- 8) **One Stop Crisis Centre:** In order to deal with a situation of violence, women require support at various levels that address their multiple needs. Recognizing this, the Ministry would examine the possibility of developing a pilot of One Stop Crisis Centre for women which would serve as an integrated facility where various needs of victims of violence, such as medical aid, legal assistance, assistance in filing a police case, counseling and emotional support, temporary shelter for herself and her children and basic necessities for the period of stay can be met, at a single place. Victims of rape and sexual assault will also be able to benefit from these where they will be provided with immediate medical help to deal with her injuries and trauma and where her statement can be recorded in a conducive and sensitive atmosphere. These centers are proposed to be established in cities with a population of more than 2.5 million.

BUDGET OF MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

In a push to Women and Child Development, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced an enhanced budget allocation for Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Government have allocated Rs 17,408.12 crore in the Budget for 2016-17 and In the last Budget, a total of Rs 17,351.89 crore were allocated for Department of Women and Child Development. “Plan allocations have given special emphasis to sectors like Agriculture, Irrigation, Social sector including Health, Women and Child Development.” Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in his budget speech. Allocation to schemes such as the National Mission for Empowerment of Women, aimed at social and economic empowerment of women, has been doubled, while the Nirbhaya schemes, which include women’s help lines and one-stop crisis centers, have also seen an additional allocation of Rs.470 crore. Allocation for Women Training Programmes for women police officers increased from Rs.12 lakh in 2015-16 to Rs.16 crore this year. However, there are some schemes which haven’t received adequate or any attention at all.

FUNDING IN DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

SR. NO	YEAR	AMOUNT (R.S IN CRORE.)
1	2015-16	17,351.89 (C.r)
2	2016-17	17,408.12 (C.r)

TABLE NO 1

The allocation for the Ministry of Women and Child Development is almost the same as what it was in 2015-16, The budget also announced Rs.2,000 crore for liquefied petroleum gas connections in the name of women in rural households and allocation of Rs.500 crore for scheduled caste/scheduled tribe and women entrepreneurs under the Stand Up India scheme. There are still no programmes for adolescent girls, or for the skill enhancement of women.

3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Education can play a vital role in bringing about the desirable behavioral changes among the women and make them well equipped In terms of knowledge, competence and capacity to deal with different socio-economic problems. It is the most powerful tool to change the women’s position in society. So, it is a wake-up call for women to awake from their deep slumber and understand the true meaning of their empowerment. The popular UNESCO slogan should be considered as an ideal for not only empowerment but also development of women: “Educate a man and you educate an individual; educate a Woman and you educate a family.” At the end, it is concluded that women empowerment which is declared as Millennium Development Goal by UNDP, could be achieved only when all concerned bodies will work in cooperation and understanding. Empowering Women is an important end in itself not only as issues related to human right but also as having the potential to uplift the position of women in developing India.

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