

**EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN WITH DIFFERENT STRATEGIES IN INDIA**

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**Abstract:-**

All Central and State Ministries will draw up time bound Action Plans for translating the Policy into a set of concrete actions, through a participatory process of consultation with Centre/State Departments of Women and Child Development and National /State Commissions for Women. The Plans will specifically including the following: (i) Measurable goals to be achieved by 2010. (ii) Identification and commitment of resources. (iii) Responsibilities for implementation of action points. (iv) Structures and mechanisms to ensure efficient monitoring, review and gender impact assessment of action points and policies. (v) Introduction of a gender perspective in the budgeting process. Empowerment of women plays important role in progress of the nation. Fifty percent population of the world due to their physical weakness in compare to men needed empowerment. Empowerment not only on paper but must implemented. In this connection the endeavors are continuing from the government side.

**Introduction:**

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. In modern India, women have held high of ices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabah and Leader of the Opposite as one of 2001, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposite on in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the parliament) were women. However, women in India continue to face atrocities such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, and forced prostitution of young girls. According to a global poll conducted by Thomson Reuters, India is the "fourth most dangerous country" in the world for women and the worst country for women among the G20

countries. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio Where by female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India even today. The paradoxical situation has such that she was sometimes concerned as God as and at other times merely as slave. The Supreme law of the land through fundamental rights and directive principles of state policy provides constitutional strength as well as Legal entitlement to the women of India. The 73rd & 74th Amendments (19 3) to the constitution of India have provided some special powers to women that for reservation of seats (3 %), In India ' The New Panchayati Raj ' is the part of the effort to empower women at least at the village level. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD- 1985) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) have been worked to safeguard the rights and legal entitlement of women.

#### **National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 2001:-**

##### **Goal and Objectives:**

The goal of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The Policy will be widely disseminated so as to encourage active participation of all stakeholders for achieving its goals. Specifically, the objectives of this Policy include:-

- (i) Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential
- (ii) The de-jure and de-facto enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres political, economic, social, cultural and civil.
- (iii) Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation.
- (iv) Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.
- (v) Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

(vi) Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.

(vi) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process .

(vi) Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and

(ix) Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

### **Policy Prescriptions:-**

#### **Judicial Legal Systems:-**

Legal-judicial system will be made more responsive and gender sensitive to women's needs, especially in cases of domestic violence and personal as adult. New laws will be enacted and existing laws reviewed to ensure that justice is quick and the punishment meted out to the culprits is commensurate with the severity of the of once. At the imitative of and with the full participation of all stakeholders including community and religious leaders, the Policy would aim to encourage changes in personal laws such as those related to marriage, divorce, maintenance and guardianship so as to eliminate discrimination against women. The evolution of property rights in a patriarchal system has contributed to the subordinate status of women. The Policy would aim to encourage changes in laws relating to ownership of property and inheritance by evolving consensus in order to make them gender just.

#### **Decision Making:-**

Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making, including decision making in political process at all levels will be ensured for the achievement of the goals of empowerment. All measures will be taken to guarantee women equal access to and full participation in decision making bodies at every level, including the legislative, executive, judicial, corporate, statutory bodies, as also the advisory Commissions, Committees, Boards, Trusts etc. Affirmative action such as reservations/quotas, including in higher legislative bodies, will be considered whenever necessary on a time bound basis. Women friendly personnel policies will also be drawn up to encourage women to participate effectively in the developmental process.

**Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in the Development Process:**

Policies, programmes and systems will be established to ensure mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental processes, as catalysts, participants and recipients. Wherever there are gaps in policies and programmes, women specific interventions would be undertaken to bridge these. Coordinating and monitoring mechanisms will also be devised to as from time to time the progress of such mainstreaming mechanisms. Women's issues and concerns as a result will special y be ad reseed and reflected in all concerned laws, sectoral policies, plans and programmes of action.

**Economic Empowerment of women:**

- (i) Poverty Eradication
- (ii) (ii ) Micro Credit
- (iii) (iii ) Globalization
- (iv) (iv) Women in Agriculture
- (v) (v) Women in Industry
- (vi) (vi) Support Services.

**Social Empowerment of women:**

- (i) Education
- (ii) Health
- (iii) Nutria on
- (iv) Drinking Water and Sanitation
- (v) Housing and Shelter
- (vi) Environment
- (vii) Science and Technology.

**Women in Difficult Circumstances:**

In recognition on of the diversity of women's situations and in acknowledgement of the needs of special y disadvantaged groups, measures and programmes will be undertaken to provide them with special as instance. These groups include women in extreme poverty, destitute women, women in conflict situations, women affected by natural calamities, women in les developed regions, the disabled widows, elderly women, single women in difficult circumstances, women heading households, those displaced from employment, migrants, women who are victims of marital violence, deserted women and prostitutes etc.

**(1) Violence against women:**

All forms of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices shall be dealt with effectively with a view to eliminate its incidence. Institutions and mechanisms/schemes for as instance will be created and strengthened for prevention of such violence, including sexual harassment at work place and customs like dowry; for the rehabilitation of the victims of violence and for taking effective action against the perpetrators of such violence. A special emphasis will also be laid on programmes and measures to deal with trafficking in women and girls.

**(2) Rights of the Girl Child:**

All forms of discrimination against the girl child and violation of her rights shall be eliminated by undertaking strong measures both preventive and punitive within and outside the family. These would relate specifically to strict enforcement of laws against prenatal sex selection and the practices of female feticide, female infanticide, child marriage, child abuse and child prostitution etc. Removal of discrimination in the treatment of the girl child within the family and outside and projection of a positive image of the girl child will be actively fostered. There will be special emphasis on the needs of the girl child and earmarking of substantial investments in the areas relating to food and nutrition, health and education, and in vocational education. In implementing programmes for eliminating child labour, there will be a special focus on girl children.

**(3) Mass Media:-**

Media will be used to portray images consistent with human dignity of girls and women. The Policy will specifically strive to remove demeaning, degrading and negative conventional stereotypical images of women and violence against women. Private sector partners and media networks will be involved at all levels to ensure equal access for women particularly in the area of information and communication technologies. The media would be encouraged to develop codes of conduct, professional guidelines and other self regulatory mechanisms to remove gender stereotypes and promote balanced portrayals of women and men.

**Action Plans:**

All Central and State Ministries will draw up time bound Action Plans for translating the Policy into a set of concrete actions, through a participatory process of consultation with

Centre/State Departments of Women and Child Development and National /State Commissions for Women. The Plans will specifically including the following: -

- (i) Measurable goals to be achieved by 2010.
- (ii) Identification and commitment of resources.
- (iii) Responsibilities for implementation of action Points.
- (iv) Structures and mechanisms to ensure efficient monitoring, review and gender impact assessment of action points and policies.
- (v) Introduction of a gender perspective in the budgeting process. In order to support better planning and programme formulation and adequate allocation of resources, Gender Development Indices (GDI) will be developed by networking with specialized agencies. These could be analyzed and studied in depth. Gender auditing and development of evaluation mechanisms will also be undertaken along side. Collection of gender disaggregated data by all primary data collecting agencies of the Central and State Governments as well as Research and Academic Institutions in the Public and Private Sectors will be undertaken. Data and information gaps in vital areas reflecting the status of women will be sought to be filled in by these immediately. All Ministries/ Corporations/Banks and financial institutions etc will be advised to collect, collate, disseminate and maintain/publish data related to programmes and benefits on a gender disaggregated basis. This will help in meaningful planning and evaluation of policies.

**Conclusion:-**

Empowerment of women plays important role in progress of the nation. Fifty percent population of the world due to their physical weakness in compare to men needed empowerment. Empowerment not only on paper but must implemented. In this connection the endeavors are continuing from the government side.

**References:**

- (1) Wikipedia and free encyclopedia.
- (2) Women Empowerment in India: A Brief Discussion: Research India Publications.
- (3) National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001).