



WELFARE SCHEMES AND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN IN INDIA – A STUDY

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Abstract:

Welfare is the provision of a minimal level of well-being and social support for all citizens, sometimes referred to as public aid. In most developed countries welfare is largely provided by the government, and to a lesser extent, charities, informal social groups, religious groups, and inter - governmental organizations. First, gender inequality in India can be traced back to the historic days of Mahabharata when Draupadi was put on the dice by her husband as a commodity. The early twenty century, it was rise of the National Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi who was in favour of removing all the disabilities of women. At the same time, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and various other social reformers laid stress on women's education, prevention of child marriage, withdrawals of evil practice of sati, removal of polygamy etc. A policy is a principle or protocol to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. Policies are generally adopted by the Board of or senior governance body within an organization whereas procedures or protocols would be developed and adopted by senior executive officers. Policies can assist in both subjective and objective decision making. Now the women in India enjoy a unique status of equality with the men as per constitutional and legal provision. But the Indian women have come a long way to achieve the present positions.

Keywords: Governance, Programmes, Policy, Welfare,

Introduction:

Welfare is the provision of a minimal level of well-being and social support for all citizens, sometimes referred to as public aid. In most developed countries welfare is largely provided by the government, and to a lesser extent, charities, informal social groups, religious groups, and inter - governmental organizations. The welfare state expands on this concept to include services such as universal healthcare and unemployment insurance. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. Policies are generally adopted by the Board of or senior governance body within an organization whereas procedures or protocols would be developed and adopted by senior executive officers. Policies can assist in both subjective and objective decision making. Policies to assist in subjective decision making



would usually assist senior management with decisions that must consider the relative merits of a number of factors before making decisions and as a result are often hard to objectively test e.g. work -life balance policy. In contrast policies to assist in objective decision making are usually operational in nature and can be objectively tested e.g. password policy.

The term may apply to government, private sector organizations and groups, and individuals. Presidential executive orders, corporate privacy policies, and parliamentary rules of order are all examples of policy. Policy differs from rules or law. While law can compel or prohibit behaviours (e.g. a law requiring the payment of taxes on income), policy merely guides actions toward those that are most likely to achieve a desired outcome. Policy or policy study may also refer to the process of making important organizational decisions, including the identification of different alternatives such as programs or spending priorities, and choosing among them on the basis of the impact they will have. Policies can be understood as political, management, financial, and administrative mechanisms arranged to reach explicit goals.

Women Welfare and Protection in India

Women welfare is a debatable subject. At earlier time they were getting equal status with men. But they had faced some difficulties during post -Vedic and epic ages. Many a time they were treated as slave. From early twenty century (national movement) their statuses have been changed slowly and gradually. In this regard, we my mentioned the name of the British people. After then, independence of India, the constitutional makers and national leaders strongly demand equal social position of women with men. Today we have seen the women occupied the respectable positions in all walks of the fields. Yet, they have not absolutely free some discrimination and harassment of the society. A few numbers of women have been able to establish their potentialities. Therefore, each and every should be careful to promote the women statuses. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby 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 Goddess and at other times merely as slave.

History is a witness that women were made to dance both in private and public places to please the man. Secondly, in Indian society, a female was always dependent on male members of the family even last few years ago. Thirdly, a female was not allow to speak with loud voice in the presence of elder members of her in-laws. In the family, every faults had gone to her and responsible. Forth, as a widow her dependence on male members of the family still more increase. In many social activities she is not permitted to mix with other members of the family.



Other hand, she has very little share in political, social and economic life of the society. The early twenty century, it was rise of the National Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi who was in favour of removing all the disabilities of women. At the same time, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and various other social reformers laid stress on women's education, prevention of child marriage, withdrawals of evil practice of sati, removal of polygamy etc .

Education

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA: Education for All): The Right to Education (RTE) Act, enacted in 2009 and enforced from 1.4.2010, gave a statutory base for providing education. SSA, launched in 2001 -02, addresses the educational needs of children in the age-group of 6-14 years by strengthening educational infrastructure in terms of opening of new schools, construction, renovation and expansion of school buildings and providing other amenities like text books etc. It covers about 194 million children in over 1.22 million habitations.

Health

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM): In order to provide health security, especially to women, children and the poor residing in rural areas, NRHM was launched in 2005. It adopts a synergistic approach covering vital determinants of health like nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and safe drinking water. Its major goal is to reduce infant and maternal mortality rate, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases etc. The programme has been instrumental in the decline in the infant mortality rate from 58 in 2005 to 50 in 2009 and increase in the institutional delivery from 10.84 million in 2005 -06 to 16.21 million in 2009-10.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY): JSY, launched on 12.4.2005, is a safe motherhood intervention under the NRHM. It is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo- natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women. The National Movement and various reform movements paved the way for their liberations from the social evils and religious taboos. In this context, we may write about the Act of Sati (abolish) 1829, Hindu Widow Remarriage Act' 1856, the Child Restriction Act, 1929, Women Property Right Act, 1937 etc. After independence of India, the constitution makers and the national leaders recognized the equal social position of women with men.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 has determined the age for marriage, provided for monogamy and guardianship of the mother and permitted the dissolution of marriage under specific circumstances. Under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, an unmarried women, widow or divorce of sound mind can also take child in adoption. Similarly, the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 says that any person who gives, tak es, or abets the giving or taking of dowry shall be punished with imprisonment, which may extend to six months or fine up to



Rs.5000/ or with both. The Constitution of India guarantees equality of sexes and in fact grants special favours to women.

The welfare of women flows from the power. It is vesting where it does not exist or exist inadequately. Welfare of women would mean equipping women to be economically independent, self-reliant, have positive esteem to enable them to face any difficult situation and they should be able to participate in development activities. Today we have noticed different Acts and Schemes of the central government as well as state government to empower the women of India. But in India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society whether it is social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, and also reproductive healthcare. Women are found to be economically very poor all over the India. A few women are engaged in services and other activities. So, they need economic power to stand on their own legs on par with men. Other hand, it has been observed that women are found to be less literate than men. According to 2011 census, rate of literacy among men in India is found to be 76% whereas it is only 54% among women.

Another problem is that workplace harassment of women. There are so many cases of rape, kidnapping of girl, dowry harassment, and so on. For these reasons, they require welfare of all kinds in order to protect themselves and to secure their purity and dignity. To sum up, women welfare can not be possible unless women come with and help to self-empower themselves. There is a need to formulate reducing feminized poverty, promoting education of women, and prevention and elimination of violence against women.

Gender equality is guaranteed under the constitution of India which not only prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex but goes beyond that and permits positive discrimination in favour of women.

Further, our country is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) under which we have an obligation to work towards ensuring gender equality. Several constitutional provisions reiterate India's commitment towards the socio-economic development of women and uphold their right of participation in political and decision making processes. As a home to about 586 million women, which constitute about 48.5 of the total population of the country, India has taken several measures to secure gender parity in all walks of social, economic and political life. To realize the above constitutional goal, the focus of our planning process has evolved from a purely welfare oriented approach to recognizing women's centrality in the developmental framework, to welfare module and now to recognizing women as agents of change.

While in the Sixth and in the Seventh Five year Plans, the emphasis was primarily on



health, education and employment of women, a marked shift could be seen in the approach of Eight year plan where ‘welfare’ of women was recognized and accepted as a distinct strategy. This was further taken forward in the Ninth plan with the introduction of the concept of Women’s Component Plan whereby identified ministries were required to indicate the flow of funds to the women’s programmes and schemes. The Ninth Plan approach was to access women living in poverty and to guide them to help themselves through initiative like Self-Help Groups (SHG).

In the Tenth Plan, for the first time, monitor -able targets were set for a few key indicators of human development, which include reduction in gender gaps in literacy, wage rates and reduction in maternal mortality rate.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan was aimed at inclusive development and it was recognised that the aim of inclusiveness would be attainable only if women, who constituted about half the population, were given the opportunity to develop to their full potential and share the benefits of economic growth and prosperity. Towards this end, the plan sought to empower women and recognize their agency by mainstreaming gender in all sectors as well as by undertaking targeted interventions. The Plan period saw the introduction many new schemes and programmes targeted at particular groups or aimed at addressing specific issues. These included SABLA, for empowering adolescent girls, IGMSY for supporting poor women during the final stages of their maternity, Ujjwala for combating trafficking and Dhanlakshmi to tackle the issue of declining sex ratio. The Plan mentioned Gender Budgeting and Gender Outcome assessment and underlined the importance of Gender Audits of public expenditure, programmes and policies at national, state and district levels. The plan further envisaged the strengthening of the Gender Budget Cells set up in the various Ministries and Departments.

The Twelfth Plan has identified the key elements for gender equity to be addressed in the next five years as economic welfare, social and physical infrastructure, enabling legislations, women’s participation in governance, inclusiveness of all categories of vulnerable women, engendering national policies/programmes and mainstreaming gender through gender budgeting.

Legislative Provisions and Women Welfare

The National Policy for Welfare of Women, 2001 (NPEW) was formulated as the blueprint for the future, with the express goal of addressing women’s felt needs and bringing about their advancement, development and welfare.



Main features of the Policy

- The advancement, development and welfare of women in all spheres of life.
- Introduction of more responsive judicial legal system that is sensitive to women's needs.
- Ensuring women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making.
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in development process.
- Strengthening and formation of relevant institutional mechanism.
- Partnership with community based organisation; and
- Implementation of international obligations, commitments and cooperation at the international, regional and sub -regional level.

The NPEW was envisaged as a comprehensive framework which is progressive and forward looking in nature. The policies/programmes of the Government are already directed towards achieving inclusive growth with special focus on women in line with the objective of the National Policy for Welfare of Women.

National Policies and Schemes for women Welfare

The National Policy for Welfare of Women of 2001 aims to advance, develop, and improve the welfare of women in all areas of life by making the legal and judicial systems more responsive to women's needs and by integrating a gender perspective into the development process. Another commitment was the development of appropriate institutional mechanisms, their strengthening, and the execution of international obligations and commitments, as well as cooperation at the global, regional, and sub-regional levels. The National Policy for Welfare of Women of 2001 aims to advance, develop, and improve the welfare of women in all areas of life by making the legal and judicial systems more responsive to women's needs and by integrating a gender perspective into the development process. The strengthening and formation of relevant institutional mechanisms and implementation of international obligations/ commitments and co-operation at the international, regional and sub-regional level was another commitment.

Women Empowerment Schemes

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
- One Stop Centre Scheme
- Women Helpline Scheme
- Ujjawala : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re- integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Working Women Hostel
- Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing



projects

- Swadhar Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
- Nari Shakti Puraskar
- Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
- Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
- Mahila police Volunteers
- Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
- Nirbhaya
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

Save girl child, educate girl child is Central Government Sponsored Scheme by Government of India.

This program's main objective is to increase awareness and boost the effectiveness of welfare services for women. Additionally, it aims to honour girls and support their education. The declining Child Sex Ratio has been addressed by the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme (CSR). A nationwide campaign and targeted multi-sectoral action in 100 chosen districts with low CSR—covering all States and UTs—are being used to carry out this plan. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development collaborated to implement this programme. Prime Minister Modi launched the programme on 22 January 2015 from Panipat, Haryana on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child, Prime Minister Modi, called for the eradication of female feticide.

Scheme for setting up One Stop Centre

On March 4, 2015, the Ministry approved a plan to establish a one-stop centre to assist women who have experienced violence. The programme aims to make it easier for women who have experienced violence to access a comprehensive range of services, including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counselling, and temporary support services. One Stop Centers (OSC) are designed to assist women who have experienced violence in both public and private settings, including the home, community, and workplace. No matter their age, class, caste, level of education, marital status, race, or culture, women experiencing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse will receive support and redress. Aggrieved women facing any kind of violence due to attempted sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, honour - related crimes, acid attacks or witch-hunting who have reached out or been referred to the OSC will be provided with specialized services. OSC are set up in each State/UT. This scheme facilitates access to an integrated range of services including medical, legal, and psychological support. The OSC will be integrated with Helpline



No. 181 and other existing helplines. Women affected by violence and in need of redressal, services could be referred to OSC through these helplines. The objectives of this scheme are - to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof; to facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counseling support under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) for the women who are expecting or nursing. A maternity benefits programme called the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) is run by the Indian government's Ministry of Women and Child Development. This programme provides conditional cash transfers for better health and nutrition, as well as encourages them to seek out better health and nutrition. It is intended for pregnant and nursing women who are at least 19 years old for their first two live births. In order to create the conditions for safe delivery, healthy eating, and proper feeding practises, it offers partial wage compensation to women who have lost wages due to pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare. It offers the women maternity benefits in cash. The goals of this programme are to encourage women to use appropriate practises, care, and institutional services for pregnancy, safe delivery, and lactation; to promote (optimal) nutrition and young child feeding practises, including early and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months; and to give pregnant and lactating mothers financial incentives for better health and nutrition in order to create a more supportive environment. Education for girls is certain.

Women Helpline Scheme: The Modi administration introduced this programme on August 6, 2017. The goals of this programme are to offer women who have experienced violence, including sexual offences and harassment in both the public and private spheres, a 24 hour emergency and non-emergency response as well as comprehensive support and assistance.

Stree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs

There is a lot of focus on promoting women entrepreneurship in India with the government and financial institutions having various schemes. One such scheme promoted by the State Bank of India (SBI) is Stree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs. In this article, we look at the SBI Stree Sakthi Package for women Entrepreneurs in detail. Businesses operated by women entrepreneurs are eligible to receive loan under Stree Shakti Package. For the purpose of identifying —Women Entrepreneurs‖ businesses, the definition recommended by the MSME Department of India will be applicable. As per definition, a Women Entrepreneur business is —A small scale industrial unit / industry related service or business enterprise managed by one or more women entrepreneurs in proprietary concerns or in which she/they individually or jointly have a share capital of not less than 51% as partners /shareholders/Directors of Private Limited



Company/Members of Co- operative Society. Thus, women entrepreneurs or women entrepreneur business in retail trade, manufacturing or services are eligible for the scheme. Also, Women professionals like Doctors, Beauticians, Architects and Chartered Accountants can avail loan under the Stree Shakti package.

Shadi Shagun Yojna

This was launched on 6th August, 2017 by the Modi Government. Under the scheme all the graduate. Muslim girls completing their graduation in any of the streams before their marriage would also be eligible to avail the Shaadi Shagun Yojana benefits. To motivate girls from minority groups to pursue higher education was also under initiative. Central Victim Compensation Fund: Central Victim Compensation Fund has been created under Nirbhaya, which is a corpus fund to support States/UTs for their Victim Compensation Scheme. This is helping ensure adequate and timely support for women survivors of crime and violence.

Mahila E-Haat

The Ministry of Women & Child Development launched Mahila E-Haat a bilingual portal on 7th March, 2016. This is a unique direct online marketing platform leveraging technology for supporting women entrepreneurs/SHGs/ NGOs for showcasing the products / services which are made/manufactured/ undertaken by them. It is an initiative for meeting aspirations and needs of women. This was done keeping in mind that digital media is a critical component for business efficiency and thus it should be made available to the majority of Indian women entrepreneurs. Since its launch over 17 lakhs visitors / hits have been received by the MahilaE- Haat Portal. Women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs from all states are showcasing products/services across 18 categories viz., Clothing (Men, Women & Children), Bags, Fashion Accessories/Jewellery, Decorative and gift items, Home Décor, Carpets / Rugs, Baskets, Linen/ Cushion Covers, Boxes, Pottery, Grocery & Staples / Organic, Natural Products, Industrial Products, Educational Aids and Miscellaneous.

Budgetary Provision

Various schemes for women & child development implemented directly by the Women & Child Development Department, Haryana under state and central sectors and through Andhra Pradesh Women Development Corporation, Andhra Pradesh State Social Welfare Board and Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Women and NGOs by providing financial assistance. Originally, a budget allotment of Rs. 54638.85 lacs was made in the year 2011-12 under various schemes and heads, which was revised to Rs 60042.62 lacs. Expenditure of Rs. 510 76.18 lacs incurred under different schemes and activities, out of which Rs. 17906.13 lacs were under State Plan, Rs. 24075.38 lacs under Central Plan and Rs. 9094.67 lacs under Non Plan heads.



Financial Assistance Component

- (a) 75% of the cost of construction of the building of working women hostel only on public land.
- (b) Financial assistance for hostels to be run in rented premises. Amount of rent shall be as assessed by the State PWD/District Collector. The rent received from the inmates shall be utilized for maintenance, house-keeping, security service, office establishment, expenditure towards water and electricity charges and any other support services other than mess.
- (c) One-time non-recurring grant at the rate of Rs.7500/- per inmate at the time of commencement of the hostel for purchase of furniture (including bed, table, chair, almirah etc.) and furnishings.
- (d) Grant of up to Rs.5.00 lakh for the purposes of maintenance and repair of hostel building constructed under the scheme, subject to the satisfactory performance of the hostel for more than 5 years immediately preceding the application for such grant.
- (e) A matching grant (50:50) for building construction may be offered to the corporate houses under the Scheme on public land only. For the component of corporate partnership, a Tripartite MoU indicating financial contribution of each partner along with responsibilities of monitoring and periodic evaluation of the scheme shall be signed among the Govt. of India, State Govt. and the partner organisation as and when such proposal is received. A model tripartite MoU will be developed in due course in this regard
- (f) The inter-se allocation for plan fund under this scheme shall be in the ratio of 87% for construction grant including furnishing, 10% for rented accommodation, 2.50% maintenance and 0.5% evaluation of scheme. However, Ministry of WCD shall have discretion to change inter-se allocation, if required.

Conclusion:

For the empowerment of women in Indian society, the government has launched a number of excellent programmes. However, social debate, promotion, and awareness are the areas that need to be addressed more than programmes and laws in order to deal with the problems at hand. When these plans and initiatives cover the entire country, our developing country will transform into a developed and prosperous country. The government has created numerous programmes for women's empowerment and child development. For women to be able to make their own informed decisions for themselves, their families, society, and the nation as a whole, they need a new and more capable environment. Women's empowerment is a crucial tool for achieving the goal of development in order to make the nation fully developed. Women in leadership positions in the public sector are supported by the government and other private institutions. The secret to the country's development is the leadership of women in the public sector. It is only a matter of justice that women should be represented in the public sector, but in



order for women's empowerment to be successful, all viewpoints must be presented. Thus, there are numerous programmes in India to empower women.

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