
Role of Govt Led Schemes in Empowering Women in India

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Abstract: *Women have vital roles in our culture. People all throughout the world have talked and pondered a lot about women's empowerment over the last few decades. This is similar to how an agenda has been at the forefront of most government initiatives and projects. There have been ongoing initiatives around the world to address this issue and increase women's education, skills, economic standing, and health. As a result, it has emerged as a critical problem in the quest to give women more influence. Despite the fact that the Central Government has established a number of programs to assist women in improving their life. However, several restrictions prevent women from making greater contributions. In India, programs have been developed to bridge the gender gap. The researcher investigated the significance of government-run programs for women's empowerment in India. The study is based on information gathered from different sources. Books, magazines, the Internet, and other sources provide us with the information we require regarding the significance of government-led programs for women's empowerment in India and their various components.*

Keywords: *Skill, Health, Issue, Women's Empowerment, Schemes.*

1. INTRODUCTION

There is no single definition of female empowerment. Women's empowerment has been the subject of extensive discussion and study around the world over the last few decades. Most Indian governments have prioritized women's empowerment initiatives at the top of their agendas. The government is constantly working to address this issue by improving women's access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Despite the fact that the central government has started several programmes to advance women. Women's contributions aren't better, because of various obstacles. As a result, it has emerged as a key problem for women's empowerment. To close the gender gap, India has implemented several women's empowerment programmes.

At the moment, the government is focusing on improving family and community well-being by empowering women. The government's efforts to achieve this goal reflect the government's commitment to gender equality, which it hopes will lead to equal opportunities and rights for men and women in all areas of life, including but not limited to the workplace, the home, the military, and the community. As a result, it is critical to make serious efforts to integrate policies promoting gender equality and justice into the whole development process. Because it ignores the fact that women continue to be treated as second-class citizens in public life, the economic, and the legal and political arenas. As a result, the quality of life for women diminishes (Prantiasih, 2014). The Indian Constitution safeguards women's rights and empowers the government to implement measures that promote gender equality.

The Indian government has implemented a number of programs and policies aimed at fostering women's economic, political, social, and political independence.

Status of Women

In Indian culture, women are often denied equal rights and prevented from participating in political and familial decision-making. Unfortunately, women's voices are rarely heard, and their rights are restricted, despite the enormous amount of labour they do every day to provide for their families.

- The census 2011, India's population was 121.06 Cr and the females constituted 48.5% of it.
- In 2011, the sex ratio (number of females per 1000 males) at all India level was 943 and the same for rural and urban areas are 949 and 929 respectively.
- The life expectancy at birth for females during 2016-20 is projected to be 71.46 and for males - 68.37 .
- The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 167 in 2011-13 to 122 in 2015-17.
- In 2017, the Infant Mortality (IMR) of females was 34 while that of males was 32. The rate of decline in the IMR of females was faster than that of IMR among males.
- In 2017, urban mothers received more medical attention at the time of delivery as compared to rural mothers (urban : 94.4%, rural:77.4%).
- According to the 2011 Census, 72.98 percent of Indians can read and write, with female literacy at 64.63 percent and male literacy at 80.91 percent. Rural women's academic achievement has increased the highest over the last decade, increasing by 24%.
- In 2017–18, the PLFS found that there were 17.5 female workers for every 51.7 male workers in the rural sector. For the urban population, the ratio is 14.2 females to 53.1 males. Women had significantly lower WPRs than men did across the board, in both rural and urban settings.
- According to the India Skills Report 2021, while 48% of women and 49% of men are qualified for employment, only 36% of women and 64% of men are actively employed. <https://www.forbesindia.com/>

Definition of Empowerment

Over time, a person may progress from feeling helpless to totally empowered. Empowerment theory emphasizes two basic perspectives on this process: one is more individualistic,



emphasizing women's innate abilities and the autonomy to make decisions based on those abilities; and the other is more collective, emphasizing women's collective decisions.

The World Bank defines empowerment as "the process of increasing the capacity of people or groups to make choices and translate those choices into desired actions and outcomes.'

“Women empowerment is the provision of women with the means, skills, and opportunities to be independent, make their own choices and lead a life free of all sorts of violence and discrimination.” as stated by Nada Hamza, sexual and reproductive rights specialist, United Nations Population Fund

According to Neena Joshi, director of programs, Heifer International Nepal “When a woman is in a condition where she is aware of her self-worth and values herself. With that comes the confidence and ability to make decisions for herself, her family and in other domain of her influence without being bothered about the boundaries that culture, society, and other norms have created for her.”

According to Kate Young (1993), Women's empowerment allows them to "determine their own destinies, pursue their own goals, form coalitions to aid one another, and press for change at the societal and national levels.

Blanchard & Thacker (2004) The Women's International Exchange and Training Programme (WET) is all about training, sharing, earning, and improving women's experiences both locally and internationally.

Biswash Roy (2009) views that women's views will be taken into account when designing and implementing macroeconomic and social policies if their participation in these processes is made official.

Objectives

The basic objective of the paper is:

- To determine the impact of govt schemes on women empowerment
- To suggest possible solutions for future development

2. METHODOLOGY

The research relies solely on secondary resources. Books, journals, and online sources on related topics were consulted in order to compile the data required for this study on the significance of women's empowerment in India.

Need For Govt Schemes

Indian women have always lived in a deeply patriarchal society. Because Indian families are deeply rooted in traditional social norms, women frequently unconsciously believe that men have a greater right to resources such as education, food, property, healthcare, and so on. When the shifting dynamics of today's society are considered, the importance of women's empowerment becomes clear. In India, the fight for women's rights and social acceptance continues. In Indian society, men are still considered superior. Census data confirms gender discrimination, which has both direct and indirect effects on demographics, with a negative sex

ratio and lower rates of labour force participation and literacy. Government programs must address the gender pay gap. The Indian government has implemented a number of programs and policies aimed at improving women's status. These policies are also beneficial in enabling women to contribute more to society. Women in low-income and other vulnerable groups can now access much-needed financial assistance for their businesses and enterprises as a result of these programs.

Govt Schemes for Women

In India, both the federal and state governments are actively promoting women's equality and well-being through a variety of programs. There are currently about 509 major schemes for women in the country, run by both the federal and state governments that aim to meet women's varying needs. These plans cater to women of all ages, backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses.

All federal and state programs aimed at women aim to make them safer, give them access to better healthcare, and equip them with a solid education and work history that will help them break out of poverty. We've compiled a comprehensive rundown of every major program offered by federal, state, and local governments across the nation.

Schemes for Women

- **Financial empowerment**
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** was launched in 2015, under which small affordable deposits are made in the bank accounts of girls, with the benefit of the higher rate of interest.
- **Support to Training and Employment Program (STEP)** is aimed at adding new skills to women.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** has within two years brought in 16.34 crore women under the banking system.

Encouraging Entrepreneurship

- Under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**, the government has provided credit to small entrepreneurs without collateral.
- 75% of these loans have been given to women, with 9.81 crore women entrepreneurs already benefitting from them under the scheme.
- Over 47 lakh SHGs have been promoted under the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**.
- SIDBI has been implementing two schemes for women entrepreneurs namely, **Mahila Udyam Nidhi** and **Mahila Vikas Nidhi**.

Skill development

- It is another key aspect for raising the potential of our female workforce. Half of the certificates awarded under **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** have been given to women candidates.
- To reach the yet unreached women across the country, the ministry has recently launched the **Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme**.

- Under this 3 lakh student volunteers are fanning out across the country to directly reach women at the village level with government schemes and services for their empowerment.

Other efforts at promoting entrepreneurship and innovation are:

- Stand-up India.
- Trade-related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD).
- Science for Equity Empowerment and Development (SEED).
- NITI Ayog launched the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).

Empowering Motherhood

- The paid maternity leave for working women to 26 weeks empowers them as they need not fear the loss of salary or job due to childbirth.
- In order to extend protection to the unorganized sector as well, pregnant and lactating mothers are provided cash incentives under the **PM Matru Vandana Yojana**.

Women health

- The Ujjawala scheme, which provides free LPG cylinders to women from BPL families in order to replace unclean cooking fuels, was implemented to empower women and protect their health.

Women safety

- 33% reservation for women in the police force is also being implemented.
- In addition to improving our forensic analysis capabilities in cases of sexual assault, the Nirbhaya Fund is being used to implement comprehensive plans to make eight of the country's largest cities safer for women.
- The National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) scheme 2016-17 is an integrated approach to bringing together disparate initiatives aimed at empowering women and promoting gender parity.
- Women's helpline came into existence to reach out to women in distress.
- Panipat in Haryana is one of the state's hardest hit districts, with a woefully low Sex Ratio at Birth, and in 2015 they established the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' program, which focused on empowering women (SRB).

Other schemes are

- One-Stop Centre Scheme
- UJJAWALA: A Systematic Plan for Protecting Vulnerable People from Human Trafficking and Aiding Those Who Have Been Victims of Trafficking or Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
- Working Women Hostel
- Swadhar Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
- Nari Shakti Puraskar
- Mahila E-Haat o Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

Challenges

Women face lot many issues and challenges which are discussed below in brief: ·

- **Lack of Education:** Majority of females are still deprived of their basic right to education. They are forced to look after household work by their parents.
- **Family Responsibility:** From the very early age girls are expected to look after their family and are bounded to restrict themselves within the four boundaries of their home.
- **Gender Discrimination:** Males are given more importance in every important decision making than the females.
- **Social Status:** Females have to struggle to make their appearance felt in the society. They are fundamentally and socially deprived of their rights.

Suggestion

- The establishment of a dedicated placement cell would benefit both women's participation in skill-building programs and their ability to find stable employment.
- Policies and guidelines should be crafted to make it simple for female business owners to secure financing.
- E-governance should be prioritized further so that state and federal spending can be monitored in real time.
- The importance of women's participation in household decision-making, especially regarding financial matters, can be driven home through regular interactive sessions with the urban poor.
- Soft skills training should be required for all jobs since it helps women grow as people and boosts their confidence.
- A sufficient level of quality dissemination requires consistent auditing and monitoring of government programs.
- An assessment of needs of women would make for better planning govt programmes.

3. CONCLUSION

It is not easy to create an environment in which women can thrive. Individuals and communities must change their perspectives. The programs' implementation necessitates both community awareness and administrative work. Girls' access to decent healthcare, education, and economic opportunity is an ongoing problem that must be addressed. The fight for women's empowerment and gender equality will be lengthy and difficult since it is impossible to achieve by simply wishing for it. To overcome, an emotional, mental, and bodily response is required. The battle must be fought within the boundaries of each group's caste, class, race, and religion. Despite the fact that successive governments have implemented a number of policies to improve women's lives and empower them, women continue to face discrimination and inequality in our society. As a result, much more government policies and programs geared toward women are required to advance gender equality.



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