



An Analysis Of Women Empowerment Schemes And Challenges In India

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Abstract: The Status of Women in India is always a burning issue. Many speak about gender equality but still there is an existence of gender discrimination in our Country. According to recent reports women population in our country is nearly 50%. But still where equal status is not given to women. India is a nation where we worship Goddess Durga but actually women in reality are treated disrespectfully in almost in each and every scenario. When hear about Women Empowerment we will The Indian Government has taken lot of initiatives and has come out with many schemes for improvement of status of women in our country and to empower women in all aspects. This paper is purely theoretical in nature and study is focused on what are the various schemes offered by Government of India for empowerment of Women.

Key Words - Women Empowerment, Status of Women, Gender Equality, Discrimination.

I. INTRODUCTION

In this 21st Century we can see the presence of women in almost every sector. Women not only plays a vital role in family has a mother, wife, daughter, sister but in the outside world in almost all the sector. We can witness the presence of women workforce in defence, space etc., We feel that there is an equal status given to women in the world. But actual fact is still there is an existence of gender discrimination. In our day-to-day life we can witness how women are victimised by various social evils. Many women still face these domestic violence, sexual harassment, gender bias. In order to curtail these issues and to upbringing of women status in our country. The Government of India, has taken lot many measures and implemented numerous Women Empowerment Schemes and implemented for helping the women.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To analyse the importance of Women Empowerment.
2. To study about the various Government schemes of Women Empowerment.
3. To Evaluate the Challenges faced by women while utilising the women empowerment schemes.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

- ❖ Kanchan Kumar Sen, Shamal Chandra Karmaker, Andrew J. Chapment and Bidyut Baran Saha, (2025), Womens's empowerment in driving the energy transition for sustainable development in developing nations. In this study, the authors have demonstrated that empowerment of women plays an important role in boosting up the energy transformation result in developing nations. The study is based on "Econometric and Machine Learning Methods" data from 71 countries from 2001 to 2021. The result is very strong in underdeveloped countries which has inequality in income which acts as a major factor.

- ❖ Suraksha Gupta, Mingxue wei, Nektarios Tzempelikos and Matthew Minsuk Shin, (2024), Women empowerment: Challenges and Opportunities for sustainable development goals. In this study the authors have evaluated the women empowerment in rural area by concentrating on differences between the skill development initiatives and creation of job though a review of literature, Government Policies and field reports. The study states that skill development helps in increase of decision-making power and financial independence among the rural area women's.
- ❖ E Shireesha, (2021), A Study on Women Empowerment Schemes in India, In this study, the author has studied about that the various women empowerment schemes and its benefits and concluded by stating women should take own decision to become independent.
- ❖ Prof. Seema Singh and Dr. Antra Singh, (2020), Women Empowerment Schemes: A Critical Analysis, Thatapi, (2020). In this study, the authors have stated about affirmity legislation, plans and programmes initiated by Government, NGO's and Corporate Sector through their CSR for upliftment of Women.
- ❖ Bansari Mandal, (2018), A Study on Women Empowerment in 21st Century. In this article, the author have emphasised on women education in Pre-colonial, Colonial and Modern India and role of Government and NGO's in Women Empowerment and also stated that in 21st Century the society has accepted for women empowerment for the development of the world.
- ❖ L.Prathiba, (2017), A Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India. In this study, the author has studied about the need of women empowerment and about the various women empowerment schemes and stated that lot of awareness should be created about the various women empowerment schemes and strict implementation of programmes and act to brought to curtail the male domination in the society.

IV. Research Methodology:

This paper is purely theoretical in nature. The data collected for the study is purely from secondary sources like journals, articles, Ministry of India, websites etc., as per the requirement of the study.

V. Indian Women Empowerment Schemes:

1. Beti Bachao Beti padhao Scheme: It was launched on 22nd January 2015 by Prime Minister of India in Haryana. This scheme aims on protection and survival of girl children and their education. It also addresses the issues of declining sex ratio over the last few years. This scheme focuses on creating social awareness and to increase efficiency of welfare services developed for girls. The Beneficiaries of Beti Bachao and Padhao Scheme are Primary Group which comprises of young and married, pregnant mothers and parents, Secondary Group which covers the youth of India adolescents, doctors, private hospitals, nursing home, diagnostic centres and the tertiary groups which covers general public of the nation, religious leaders, voluntary organisations, frontline workers, officials, media and women SHG's sector. The girl child below 10 years are eligible to avail benefits under this scheme and the family with a girl child must hold a Sukanya Samrudhi Account in any Nationalised Bank.

2. Working Women Hostel: This scheme is introduced by Government of India to provide safe accommodation and safe environment for working women and to facilitate day care centres for children of working women. The scheme provides grants for construction of new hostel buildings for working women and for extension of existing building. The Beneficiaries of this scheme are working women who are single/widowed/married/divorced/separated, Women belonging to disadvantaged sector of the society and Physically challenged. The Women who undergo training for more than a tenure of 12 months/ 1 year for seeking job opportunity, working women whose spouse/ immediate family should not stay/ reside in the same area and the aggregate income per month should not exceed Rs.50,000/- in metropolitan city and Rs.35,000/- in other cities are eligible for this scheme.

3. One Stop Centre Scheme: This scheme is introduced by Central Government of India under NIRBAYA fund and the State Government receives 100% assistance to protect women affected by violence like sexual harassment and others in public and private places. It facilitates medical treatment, counselling, legal actions to fight against violence against women. The Beneficiaries of One Stop Scheme: Women who are affected by violence irrespective of age, caste, religion etc.,

4. Women Helpline Scheme: This scheme provides 24/7 helpline services for women affected by violence in public and private places. The universal helpline number 181 is facilitated nation-wide and which provides awareness about women empowerment schemes and programs.

5. Mahila-E-Haat: This scheme is introduced by Ministry of Women and Child Development, which facilitates a platform for women entrepreneurs to promote and sell their products produced by them by using mobile and internet has a medium. The products include clothing, pottery, fashion accessories, toys, home décor etc., The beneficiaries of this scheme must Women Entrepreneurs with Indian Citizen ship and the products should be sold out on legal validity.

6. Mahila Police Volunteers: This Scheme is an initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development in association with Home Affairs. It is introduced to provide safe Women friendly environment. It is offered to all states and union territory. This scheme's goal is creating a link between the police and local community to assure that police can surpass on crime cases.

7. STEP- Support to Training and Employment Program for women: This scheme is introduced by Government of India to render a helping hand for women to undergo training for skill development and to assure employment opportunity for women. Under this scheme the Government grants fund for organizations and training institutes who conduct training programs for women. The beneficiaries of these programs are marginalized rural and urban women who are covered under poverty line.

8. SWADHAR Greh: This scheme is introduced to provide food, clothing, shelter, social, economic and health security to women and it also extends legal assistance to women. The beneficiaries of this scheme are homeless women, women prisoners, trafficked women/ girls, women's suffering from HIV.

9. Mahila Shakthi Kendra: This scheme operates at multiple levels like district level, state level and national level and it is introduced to facilitate one-stop convergent support to women by generating employment, skill development training facilities and to enhance digital literacy to women. This scheme has covered 115 backward classes by establishing 920 Mahila Shakthi's Kendra. The beneficiaries of this program are rural women.

10. Poshan 2.0: This is an Government of India's in the year 2021 with an initiative of nutrition mission aimed to increase the nutritional benefits in children, carrying mothers and feeding mothers introduced in the year 2021.

11. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: The PMMY was introduced by Government of India in the year 2015 to provide loan facility which is collateral free for micro and small women entrepreneurs to boost self-employment among women in India.

12. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: The PMUY scheme was introduced in the year 2016 to provide cooking fuel to lower income households i.e., free LPG connections to improve health condition, to reduce indoor air pollution and to provide ease of cooking methods. This scheme has served 9.6 crore women in India.

VI. Importance and Benefits of Women Empowerment Schemes:

- Women gain social security.
- Women can take the advantage of developing skills.
- It helps in employment opportunities.
- Women can address their issues more freely and quickly with Government authorities.
- These schemes assure safe and dignified living for women through hostel facilities.

- These schemes aim at educating the women and also takes care of children of women are victimized and working.

VII. Challenges of Women Empowerment Schemes:

The challenges of Women Empowerment Schemes are:

- **Lack of awareness:** Early marriage, family pressure and lower education i.e., illiteracy rates is also one of the major factor for lack of awareness about the women empowerment schemes.
- **Influence of Men in Decision Making:** One of the major challenges/ problems for successful utilisation of women empowerment schemes. For, example while borrowing credit or while making financial decisions men influence loan decisions. Which hinders the successful implementation such schemes and its utilisation of benefits.
- **Lack of Opportunity:** During the study it is also evident that due to robust credit facility women in rural sector is unable to get credit facility.
- **Geographical Conditions:** For instance, in certain rural sector and in Jammu & Kashmir, erosion of freedom of speech, education and employment opportunities.
- **Professional Inequality:** Women face male domination and gender bias not only in house/ family but also in work area.

VIII. Conclusion:

There is a very popular saying i.e., When women are educated, the family will get educated that in turn educates the nation and the world. But, due to numerous reasons the successful utilisation of different women empowerment schemes is not able reach its goal as expected.

In order to conclude, there are lot many opportunities and schemes facilitated by Government, NGO's and other entities but due to many reasons women are not able to successfully utilise the benefits of women empowerment schemes. So, certain measures should be taken by Government by educating the people with good promotion of women empowerment schemes and its benefits. Not, only Government even people should come one step forward in order to hinder the socio, economic and political drawbacks in successful utilisation of women empowerment schemes.

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