



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to explore the association between government schemes and initiatives and women empowerment. As a practical concept, women empowerment can be understood as improvement of women's social, political, economic and health status in the backdrop of historic discrimination and backwardness compared to men. The study examines existing literature, research and empirical evidence to measure the successes and criticism of the Government of India in promoting women's empowerment. It also analyses the role played by these very government schemes and initiatives taken up by them in the direction of uplifting women. Moreover, this article will also throw light on the different aspects of women empowerment targeted and achieved by the government. Conclusively, this article would try to establish the connection between the government initiatives and schemes, and the current status of women empowerment in India.

INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment in India largely depends on many variables such as geography (urban/rural), social status (caste and class), education and age. Actions have been taken to empower women at the state, local (panchayat) and national levels. However, women face inequalities in many areas such as education, employment, health and medical services, and political participation, showing the difference between the advancement of ideas and their actual use in society.

The term women's empowerment is all about women's unequal rights or empowerment. The term refers to the liberation of women from the social constraints of civilization. Women make up about 50 percent of the country's population, and most of them are economically disadvantaged and unemployed. There are so many women in this country who need support for hope. In most Indian villages and urban areas, women are still uneducated and powerless to pursue higher education despite increasing knowledge.

Government programs and policies to empower girls and women The future of a country depends on the representation, qualification and potential nature of future students to be responsible for development. Gender inequality has left its mark on our past as a country, but our aim is to correct it; The government is taking steps to empower, educate and empower girls. Central and state government policies and programs aimed at improving the lives of girls in India are as follows:

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. One Stop Centre Scheme
3. Women Helpline Scheme
4. UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
5. Working Women Hostel
6. Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
7. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
8. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
9. Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
10. Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
11. Mahila police Volunteers
12. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
13. NIRBHAYA

For Women empowerment:

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), {erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme} has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.
- Scheme for Adolescent Girls : aims at girls in the age group 11-18, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training

- Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme, promote community participation through involvement of Student Volunteers for empowerment of rural women.
- National Creche Scheme to provide day care facilities to children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who are employed.
- Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) to provide micro-credit to poor women for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.

For Child Development

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented through States/UTs with the aim of holistic development of children upto 6 years of age and to meet nutritional needs of pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (now Child protection Services) is being implemented through the State Government/UT Administrations to create a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in need of care and protection in urban and semi-urban areas.

National Nutrition Mission (NNM): The Government of India has approved setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) commencing from 2017-18. The NNM, as an apex body, will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries. The programme through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Launched with initial funding of Rs.100 crore the scheme aims to address the issue of the declining child sex ratio image (CSR) and is a national initiative run jointly by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), a comprehensive programme is being implemented to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum.

Highlights

- It's focused on multi-sector action in 100 districts across the country with a low CSR.
- Aims at generating awareness about the importance of girl children and improving the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls in India.
- Working towards preventing female infanticide.
- Under the BBBP scheme, even district-level education officials must ensure that the benefit of free elementary education reaches all the girls in their area.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojna Part of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, this Government of India backed saving scheme is targeted at the parents of girl children. The programme encourages them to build a fund for future education and marriage expenses for their female child. Parents can start saving early as the minimum amount of investment required is small, and the account is active for 14 years from the date of opening the account.

Highlights

- It has tax benefits and an interest rate of 9.1%.
- It is meant for girls under the age of 10 years.
- You can start the account with just Rs 1,000.
- The maximum deposit is Rs 1,50,000 per year.

Balika Samridhi Yojna This scheme was launched by the Government of India on 15th August 1997 and covered all girls born on or after 15 August 1997 who are below the poverty line. Aimed at offering financial aid to girl

children born on or after 15 August 1997, the schemes key objectives include improving the enrolment and retention of the girl child in schools and helping raise daughters until their legal age of marriage. If successful, young girls will get an education that will help them with jobs to generate a steady income.

Highlights

Gift deposit of Rs 500 at birth and second fixed amount deposited every year of school she progresses until class 10.

- Up to Class 3rd - Rs 300 per year
- For Class 4 - Rs 500 per year
- For Class 5 - Rs 600 per year
- For Class 6 & 7- Rs 700 per year
- For Class 8 - Rs 800 per year
- For Class 9 & 10 - Rs 1000 Only one girl child per family can use this scheme.

CBSE Scholarship Scheme/Policy for Girl Education This central government scheme is available at Government CBSE schools only. It is applicable for one girl child per family across India and aims to supplement the school tuition fee.

Highlights

- Relaxation of Rs 500 per month in school tuition fee.
- The girl should have scored at least 60% or 6.2 CGPA in her 10th board exams.
- The girl child should be the single girl child of her parents.
- Her school fees should not be more than Rs 1500 a month.

While many of these programs tackle the issue of savings and education, some like the Kishori Shakti Yojana also aim to educate adolescent girls about the importance of health care. Adolescent girls get access to current and updated healthcare initiatives and learn about good hygiene. As future mothers to be, knowing about 13 life-saving vaccines that the government provides free of cost and the importance of MMR, Polio and similar vaccination is integral to their health and reducing child mortality through vaccine-preventable diseases in the future. State Government Sponsored Schemes for Girl Child in India Apart from the central government, the Indian State governments also actively offer several schemes that benefit girl children. Some of these include: • Rajshri Yojna - Rajasthan • Girl child protection scheme - Andhra Pradesh • Sivagami Ammaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme - Tamil Nadu. • Ladli Laxmi Yojana - Madhya Pradesh. • Ladli - Delhi & Haryana • Mukhyamantri Laadli Yojna – Uttar Pradesh • Mukhyamantri Kanya Suraksha Yojna - Bihar • Ladli scheme - Haryana • Kishori Shakti Yojana - Odisha • MAMTA scheme for girl child - Goa • Saraswati Bicycle Scheme - Chhattisgarh. • West Bengal Kanyashree Prakalpa - West Bengal • Bhagyalaxmi scheme – Karnataka

Both income and education are important factors in women's empowerment. It is possible for a woman to work in unskilled jobs (eg: maid), but still lacks power. On the contrary, women will receive education. But he still has no power because he has no money. Therefore, financial independence is very important for women's empowerment.

Educated and earning women are better off in our society than uneducated working women. Therefore, the Working Women Program was created to provide safety and convenience to working women. Family, religion, marital status etc. from this program. It is given to all working women regardless of To be eligible for the program, a woman's gross income must not exceed Rs. No more than 50,000 rupees per month in large cities and rupees per month in small cities.

FAILURES AND CHALLENGES

May 2023 is the ninth day of Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in power. May 28 was the new inaugural meeting of the court and the president of the court was the executive chairman.

The shocking images of police violence against women in the streets show the "coldness" and indifference of the government, which is not trying to suppress any protests against the country. This isn't the first time Modi Sha h's "twin-engine" government has used police brutality against protests.

from CAA-

NRC protests led by older women in Shaheen Bagh; Nonviolent protests against the Farm Bill were also launched by thousands of female farmers, and the government is now using force to suppress any "protest or retreat for their own actions".

- Crimes against women have been on the increase. Despite boasting election manifestos in their 2014 campaign on improving the deteriorated condition of women in the nation, in the past 9 years the reality comes in sharp contrast to their words. According to reports from NCRB, crime rates against women have only increased drastically.
- There has also been poor implementation of schemes by the respective governments. While initiatives have been taken up yet funding and support to those social welfare schemes is questionable and contradictory to the intent.

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