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NATIONAL MISSION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (NMEW): A BOON TO INDIAN WOMEN

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Abstract:-The government has brought all women empowerment program, women development programs and women welfare programs under one umbrella by merging the various sectors and now it is being implemented in mission mode. Indeed national mission for women empowerment is the boom to Indian empowerment who remained out of stream of the development. The experience indicates that the needs and requirements of the women staying in the remote villages without assured source of livelihood are facing tremendous problems. The main reason for this is either the appropriate programs are not planned and implemented in view of the prevalent situation and second reason is if the programs are implemented major portion of women populations has remained out of benefit of the government schemes. Therefore more resources are needed to cover the needy and deserving women. The paper highlighted the focus area such as health, drinking water, sanitation, employment opportunities, skill development, access to financial resources etc.

Keywords: Poverty alleviation, economic empowerment, access to basic services, marginalized groups, government schemes, national policy and strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Of the 1.3 billion people who live in absolute poverty around the globe, 70 percent are women. For these women, poverty doesn't just mean scarcity and want. It means rights denied, opportunities curtailed and voices silenced. Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, according to the United Nations Millennium Campaign to halve world poverty by the year 2015. The overwhelming majority of the labor that sustains life like growing food, cooking, raising children, caring for the elderly, maintaining a house, hauling water is done by women and universally this work is accorded low status and no pay. The ceaseless cycle of labor rarely shows up in economic analyses of a society's production and value (United Nations Development Programme, 2013). Women earn only 10 percent of the world's income. Where women work for money, they may be limited to a set of jobs deemed suitable for women – invariably low-pay, low-status positions. Women own less than 1 percent of the world's property. Where laws or customs prevent women from owning land or other productive assets, from getting loans or credit, or from having the right to inheritance or to own their home, they have no assets to leverage for economic stability and cannot invest in their own or their children's futures. Women make up two-thirds of the estimated 876 million adults worldwide who cannot read or write; and girls make up 60 percent of the 77 million children not attending primary school.

Education is among the most important drivers of human development: women who are educated have fewer children than those who are denied schooling (some studies correlate each additional year of education with a 10 percent drop in fertility). They delay their first pregnancies, have healthier children (each additional year of schooling a woman has, is associated with a 5 to 10 percent decline in child deaths, according to the United Nations Population Fund) and are far more likely to send their own children to school. Yet where women do not have the discretionary income to invest in their own or their children's education, where girls' education is considered frivolous, and where girls are relied on to contribute labor to the household, they miss this unparalleled opportunity to develop their minds and spirits. India is the world's largest democracy and the second most populous country. Home to a wide variety of different linguistic, cultural, religious and ethnic groups, the country achieved independence from British colonial rule in 1947, and since then has been governed under a federal system. The country's economy is growing rapidly, with a large, well-educated middle class emerging; however at the same time, social and economic inequality is becoming more entrenched. India is classed as a lower-middle income country by the World Bank

(Women's Empowerment Care, 2013). Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the fifth five year plan (1974-78) onwards has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National commission for women was set up by an Act of parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of panchayats and municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) in 1993. The Mexico plan of action (1975), the Nairobi forward looking strategies (1985), the Beijing declaration as well as the platform for action (1995) and the outcome document adopted by the UNGA session on gender equality and development & peace for the 21st century, titled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action" have been unreservedly endorsed by India for appropriate follow up. The Policy also takes note of the commitments of the ninth five year plan and the other sectoral policies relating to empowerment of Women. The women's movement and a wide-spread network of non-government organizations which have strong grass-roots presence and deep insight into women's concerns have contributed in inspiring initiatives for the empowerment of women (National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001). However, there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of the status of women in India, on the other. This has been analyzed extensively in the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, "Towards Equality", 1974 and highlighted in the National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988-2000, the Shramshakti Report, 1988 and the "Platform for action, five years after- an assessment". Gender disparity manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades. Social stereotyping and violence at the domestic and societal levels are some of the other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women persists in parts of the country. The underlying causes of gender inequality are related to social and economic structure, which is based on informal and formal norms, and practices. Consequently, the access of women particularly those belonging to weaker sections including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ Other backward Classes and minorities, majority of whom are in the rural areas and in the informal, unorganized sector – to education, health and productive resources, among others, is inadequate. Therefore, they remain largely marginalized, poor and socially excluded (Ramesh Verma, 2011).

The National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) was launched by the Government of India (GoI) on International Women's Day in 2010 with the aim to strengthen overall processes that promote all-round Development of Women. It has the mandate to strengthen the inter-sector convergence; facilitate the process of coordinating all the women's welfare and socio-economic development programmes across ministries and departments. The Mission aims to provide a single window service for all programmes run by the Government for Women under aegis of various Central Ministries. In light with its mandate, the Mission has been named Mission Purna Shakti, implying a vision for holistic empowerment of women. The National Resource Centre for Women has been set up which functions as a national convergence centre for all schemes and programmes for women. It acts as a central repository of knowledge, information, research and data on all gender related issues and is the main body servicing the National and State Mission Authority.

Mission Statement

NMEW will achieve gender equality, and gender justice and holistic development of women through inter-sectoral convergence of programmes relating to women, forging synergy between various stakeholders and creating an enabling environment conducive to social change.

Focus areas of the Mission

Access to health, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for women
Coverage of all girls especially those belonging to vulnerable groups in schools from primary to class 12
Higher and Professional education for girls/women
Skill development, Micro credit, Vocational Training, Entrepreneurship, SHG development
Gender sensitization and dissemination of information
Taking steps to prevent crime against women and taking steps for a safe environment for women

Key Strategies

Facilitating inter-sector convergence of schemes meant for women, monitor and review the progress on regular basis
Strengthening institutional framework offering support service for women
At policy level commission research, evaluation studies, review schemes, programmes and legislation, do gender audit and outcome assessment to build the evidence for policy and programme reform and scale up implementation of the initiatives

Enhance economic empowerment of girls and women through skill development, micro credit, vocational training and entrepreneurship and SHG development

Evolve with the support of community representatives and groups appropriate and localized communication to strengthen public education on gender, behavior change and social mobilization using 360 degree approach on media and communication

Convergence Model

The CONVERGENCE MODEL is a project to test a model of delivery for convergent implementation of programmes intended for welfare and development of women. It has been originally intended to test this model in 30 districts spanning all states and UTs (Except Delhi), covering 640 identified villages. The model would include introduction of convergence cum facilitation centers at the district (few urban agglomerations), tehsil / ward and village/ area levels. The existing structural arrangements of participating departments wherever available shall be used and the PRIs shall be used as far as possible. The women centre at the village level, the first point of contact for women will be known as the POORNA SHAKTI KENDRA (PSK). The Poorna Shakti Kendra (PSK) is the point of focal point action on ground through which the services to grassroots women would be facilitated. Village coordinators at the Kendras would reach out to the women with the motto "HUM SUNENGE NAARI KI BAAT!"

What the Kendra can offer?

Information on all the government schemes/services/programmes for women

Maintain a database of target population

Awareness generation on legal rights and entitlements

Facilitate the availability and access to government schemes/services/programmes across health, education and livelihood sectors

Training and capacity building on various issues like leadership, legal rights etc.

Organize women into collectives to access various resources

Coordinate the outreach of services of various departments

Partner Ministries & Departments

Partner Ministries & Departments for programmes related to empowerment of women facilitated by NMEW:

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Housing and Urban poverty Alleviation

Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Panchyat Raj

Department of Agriculture and co-operation

Ministry of Health and Family welfare

Ministry of Micro Small and medium Enterprises

Ministry of Law and Justice

Ministry of Environment and Forest

Ministry of Labour and Empowerment

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Schemes & Programmes

A) Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment of Women

Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development

Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post harvest Operations

Scheme on Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension

Assistance to Cooperatives

National Bamboo Mission

Central Poultry Development Organisation

Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management Scheme

Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing & Demonstration

Gramin Bhandaran Yojna

Capacity Building to enhance Competitiveness of Indian Agriculture and Registration of Organic Products

Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture

Marketing Assistance Scheme
Scheme of Support to Voluntary Agencies for Adult Education and Skill Development
Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)
Performance & Credit Rating Scheme for Small Industries
Entrepreneurship Development Institutions (EDIs) Scheme
National Award Scheme/ Guidelines [Launched by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME)]
Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for Technology Upgradation of the Small Scale Industries
Management Training Programmes
Scheme For Market Development Assistance For MSME Exporters
Credit Guarantee Cover Fund Scheme for Small Industries
Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana (RGUMY)
Raw Material Assistance Scheme
Bamboo Cultivation
Organic Farming
Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
Mushroom Farming
Scheme of Financial Assistance for Preparing Young Professional in Rural Areas
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
Pottery Technology
Technopreneur Promotion Programme
Consultancy Promotion Programme
Technology Development & Utilization Programme for Women
Industrial R&D Promotion Programme (IRDPP)
National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation
National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation
Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
Grant in Aid Scheme - Export
Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS)
Grant in Aid Scheme - Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna
Jute Manufactures Development Council Schemes
Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks
Grant in Aid Scheme - HRD Scheme
Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme
Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (Handloom Sector)
Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund
Assistance to Cooperatives Scheme
Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality & Clean Milk Production
Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme
Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
National Rural Drinking Water Programme
Mid Day Meal
Kishori Shakti Yojana
Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY)
Old and Infirm Persons Annapurna
National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)
Nutrition Education and Extension
Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) - A Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme
Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) Sabla
SwayamSiddha
Scheme for Working Women Hostel
Short Stay Home For Women and Girls (SSH)
STEP (Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women)

Social Empowerment And Education

Elementary Education
Secondary Education
Vocationalization of Secondary Education

Adult Education
Higher and Technical Education

Health & Nutrition

Integrated Child Development Scheme
Reproductive & Child Health Programme, Ph.II (RCH II)
National Rural Health Mission
Janani Suraksha Yojana
Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)
Integrated Child Protection Scheme
Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme
Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
National Rural Drinking Water Programme
Mid Day Meal
Sabla
Kishori Shakti Yojana
Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY)
Old and Infirm Persons Annapurna
Food Security Mission
National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)
Nutrition Education and Extension
Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana(RSBY)
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Empowerment of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups and Women in Difficult Circumstances

Schemes of National Scheduled Tribes Finance and development Corporation (NSTFDC)
Integrated Child Development Scheme
National Rural Health Mission
Janani Suraksha Yojana
Integrated Child Protection Scheme
Swadhar - A scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances
Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY)
Ujjawala- A Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana(RSBY)
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) - A Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme
Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) Sabla
SwayamSiddha
Scheme for Working Women Hostel
STEP (Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women)
Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment of Women(PAEE)

Empowerment is a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and multi-layered concept. According to the Country Report the Government of India Empowerment means moving from position of enforced powerlessness to one of power. Economic Empowerment is the key to open up avenues of such power by enabling women to gain personal identity and social status. It involves reaching women all basic amenities and services through broad based efforts, addressing their problems arising out of gender bias and social constraints that confront Indian women and help achieve linkage between women and available economic/social services and provide them with economic opportunities. The NSSO 66th Round Survey, July 2009-June 2010 on Employment and unemployment in India reveals that usual status worker population ratio (WPR) for rural male was 547/1000 and for rural female was 261/1000. For urban areas, the corresponding figures were 543 and 138 respectively. Among the workers in the rural areas, about 54.2 per cent were 'self-employed', about 38.6 per cent were 'casual labour' and 7.3 percent were 'regular wage/salaried' employee. In rural areas, nearly 63 per cent of the male workers were engaged in the

agricultural sector while in the secondary and tertiary sectors nearly 19 per cent and 18 per cent of the male workers were engaged. There was a higher dependence of female workers on agricultural sector: nearly 79 per cent of them were engaged in agricultural sector while secondary and tertiary sectors shared 13 per cent and 8 per cent of the female workers, respectively.

Till recently, the most important innovation in the attempt to promote economic empowerment has been formation of thrift and credit based self-help groups (SHGs) formed by women. Though initially, non-governmental agencies (NGO's) backed this movement. The SHG route gained currency when the Government and the Planners reposed faith in SHGs by linking them to formal financial institutions and giving them access to credit in the organized money market. The successful linkages between SHGs and Micro-Finance institutions such as RMK, NABARD, SIDBI besides private micro-finance institutions have immensely helped in generating additional income, jobs and create small enterprises for women. It is this innovation that needs to be developed and built upon by achieving synergy in the SHG activities through formation of clusters and federations, building institutions for imparting skill and achieve social and economic empowerment of women. Therefore, when the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) speaks of socio-economic empowerment of women in India, it envisages a number of steps mentioned below that would take us towards the goal of attaining economic empowerment of women through inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programmes of partner ministries/departments:

Economic empowerment of women cannot be achieved in isolation by a single department. Other Ministries/Departments would need to be brought on board through a mechanism which ensures not only engendering of their schemes/programmes but also would achieve inter-sectoral convergence of the programmes/schemes. MNEW would coordinate effective implementation of women centric and pro women schemes and programmes of all Ministries under one umbrella as women's issues has a cross cutting requirement. It would bring about coordination between Central Government and State Governments for implementation of schemes for gender empowerment and equality.

Various Ministries and their organizations, e.g., Ministry of Rural Development(SGSY), Ministry of Women and Child Development(STEP, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh), Ministry of Agriculture(National Horticulture Mission), Department of Financial Services(Micro Finance Institutions), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(NSCFDC), Ministry of Labour & Employment(National Skill Development Corporation), etc. are actively engaged in promoting Self Help Groups through awareness generation, formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), upgradation of skills, establishing effective linkages with micro credit institutions and promoting distribution and marketing support. The Mission will identify core strengths of all such activities and suggest a unified plan of action to synergise all identified efforts to promote self employment through skill development, provisioning of micro finance to ensure an economically viable and sustainable SHG movement using the existing framework available with various Ministries.

Expansion of women's economic empowerment schemes and programmes of various Ministries.

Identify elements of sustainability in livelihood options, document and disseminate.

Strengthen micro-credit delivery system to ensure adequate fund flow at reasonable rate of interest to livelihood generating endeavors through SHGs.

Support institutions of MFIs to create advocacy for self regulations and support institutions on financial literacy of women.

Help build up capacities of various stake holders implementing economic initiatives for women.

Reallocation of resources keeping in view the demands of the emerging scenario.

Ensure effective regulation of the financial functions of the Micro Finance Institutions (MFI).

Setting up Special Economic Zones for Women where all needs for successful entrepreneurship, e.g.: facility for training and skill upgradation, information about products, designs, market trends etc, assistance in procurement of credit, inputs etc, assistance for linkages to marketing and distribution network etc.

Assess the training need of the stake holders and participating agencies

To sum up, the economic empowerment of women as envisaged under the NMEW would include:

1. Institutional capacity building for women's development through strengthening of SHGs and the NGOs/ line departments. The objective would be to strengthen their delivery system and enable them to provide better services to poor women. Taking steps to monitor and regulate interests on loans to be given to SHGs belonging to both BPL and non BPL categories at the lowest possible rate of interest so that women can involve themselves in economically productive activities.
2. Ensure provision of skill training, technology transfer, technical support and promotion of market linkages.
3. Work towards giving women access to social programmes and leverage funds for asset creation in their society, which would reduce drudgery, access to clean drinking water, fuel and fodder (for e.g. provision of hand pumps, biogas for cooking, solar energy etc.)
4. Establish effective delivery system at the state, district and village level by strengthening delivery system through gender budgeting and preparation of gender sensitive programmes.

EXISTING POLICIES

National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001

To bring gender justice and to make de jure into de facto equality.
Advancement, development and empowerment of women in all spheres of life
Creation of a more responsive judicial and legal system sensitive to women's needs
Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision-making
Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process
Comprehensive economic and social empowerment of women
Formation of relevant institutional mechanisms and strengthening the existing ones.
Partnership with community based organizations
Implementation of international obligations/ commitments and co-operation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.

International instruments:

India has also ratified various international Conventions and Human Rights Instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them are as under: Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1993

Mexico Plan of Action, 1975

Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies 1985 called for Recognition of women's unpaid work.

Beijing Declaration as well as Platform for Action 1995-Strategic objectives included review, adopt and maintain macro-economic policies and development strategies that address the needs of women in poverty; revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources; provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions; and develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty.

The World Summit for Social Development, Denmark March, 1995- Talks about Poverty Alleviation and expansion of productive employment.

ELEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN - EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY

Social Empowerment: Create an enabling environment through adopting various policies and programmes for development of women, provide them easy and equal access to all the basic minimum services so as to enable them to realize their full potential.

Economic Empowerment: Ensure provision of training, employment and income generation activities with both 'forward' and 'backward' linkages with the ultimate objective of making all women economically independent and self-reliant.

Gender Justice: Eliminate all forms of gender discrimination and thus enable women to enjoy not only de jure but also de facto rights and fundamental freedom on par with men in all spheres, viz. Political, economic, social, civil, cultural etc

Strategies for Economic Empowerment

Ensure convergence and implementation of programmes of the participating Ministries through a single window project sanction facility under the District Mission to be set up in each of the pilot Districts in all States.

Linking Self Help Group Movement with Micro-credit facilities to reduce Poverty and Empower Women.

Advocating in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGA) in order to provide job opportunities to women to ensure more women's participation.

Make available finance to SHGs at low interest rates.

Pursue the legislation of pending bill on Micro Finance (Development of Regulation Act), 2007.

Revamp of 'Rashtriya Mahila Kosh' and give it the status of a Non-Banking Financial Institution with increased corpus.

Strengthening women's access to easy credit in rural sector including farm loans to women farmers.

Work towards providing support for enhancing women's rights to land ownership and providing infrastructure support for women farmers.

Evolve long term strategy to provide skills and capacity building of women to secure them against global meltdowns and equip them to seek out employment opportunities in the era of globalization.

To bring women under financial inclusion.

Ensure gender equity and equality in framing of micro and macro Economic policies.

Conduct impact assessment on effects of globalization on BPL women and undertake research/evaluation studies to identify gaps in the implementation of the programmes/schemes.

Monitorable Gender Related Output And Outcome Indicators

Self Help Group and Micro Finance

Formation and universalization of Sustainable SHGs

Extent and volume of Micro-Credit Flow to SHGs through NABARD, nationalized banks, RMK, NSFDC, NBSFDC, NSKFDC etc.

Skill upgradation through National Skill Development Mission

Volume of savings mobilized by women's SHGs through NABARD, nationalized banks, RMK and other finance development corporations.

Distribution and marketing linkages, whether product based or cluster based, by NABARD, TRIFED, RMK, KVICs etc.

Forward and backward linkages with the markets

Increase in quality of life and income levels of SHG members

Workforce Participation and Economic Empowerment

Workforce Gender Participation Ratios and wage differentials and disparity

Gender dimensions in unorganized and organized Sector

Provision for conducive environment for women in work place (creches, maternity leave, protection against sexual harassment, etc.)

Control Over Resources

Land ownership

Property rights including ownership of homes

Commercial and Bank Savings

Women Headed Enterprises

Asset Creation and Ownership of Women

Note: These are suggestive Indicators. This can further be broken down into sub-indicators by the concerned Ministry/Department.

Social Empowerment and Education

Education is the single most important instrument for social and economic transformation. A well educated population, adequately equipped with knowledge and skill is not only essential to support economic growth, but is also a precondition for growth to be inclusive, since it is only the educated and skilled person who can stand to benefit most from the employment opportunities which growth will provide. Improvements in education are not only expected to enhance the efficiency but also augment the overall quality of life. Education is an instrument of social change and eliminates gender disparities and ensures equal opportunities. In this context, National Mission for the Empowerment of Women (NMEW) through its Social Empowerment and Education domain ensures gender mainstreaming in the education sector in-order to empower women holistically and through her the nation building. Social Empowerment and Education domain aims at converging and linking various schemes of Government of India focusing on women with special reference to the flagship programs of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD). The domain will review existing studies, policies, programmes, schemes and also commission research studies of various programmes/ schemes on education for better implementation.

The approach paper of the Planning Commission for the Twelfth Plan lays emphasis on expansion of secondary education to facilitate enhanced access. The paper also accords priority for skill development for the employability of the persons especially to the empowerment of women with suitable skills. The MoHRD has appreciated the setting up of the NMEW and has expressed the view that the objectives of the NMEW are in consonance with the National Education Policy and the schemes of the MoHRD will be a vehicle of achieving the goals of NMEW.

National Policies

The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 emphasises the need to use education as an agent of basic change in the status of women. The NPE proposes national education system to play a positive interventionist role in the empowerment of women, fostering of development of new values through redesigning of curriculum, text book, training and orientation of teachers, decision making and administrators and active involvement of educational institutions. These will be an act of faith and social engineering. Women studies will be promoted as the part of various courses and education institutions encouraged taking up active programs to further women's development.

Removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to, and retention in elementary education will receive overriding priority, through provision of special support services, setting up of time targets and effective monitoring. Major emphasis will be laid on women's participation vocational, technical and professional education at different levels. The policy of non-discrimination will be perused vigorously to eliminate sex, stereotyping in vocational and professional courses and promote women's participation in non-traditional occupations as well and existing and emergent technologies.

The National Policy of Empowerment of Women of 2001 has endorsed the provisions of NPE 1986. The policy prescribes:

Equal access to education for women and girls.
Special measures will be taken to eliminate discrimination.
Universalize education.
Eradicate illiteracy.
Create a gender-sensitive educational system.
Increase enrolment and retention rates of girls.
Improve the quality of education.
Development of occupation/vocation/technical skills by women.
Reducing the gender gap in secondary and higher education.

Schemes: Elementary Education

Elementary Education has been accorded priority and Sarve Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) was launched during 11th Plan as a part of Universalization of the elementary education. The goals of SSA were:

All children to be in a regular school, Education Guarantee Scheme, Alternative Innovative Education, or "Back to School" camp by 2005
Bridging all gender and social category gaps at primary level by 2010
Universal retention by 2010;
Free textbooks to all girls up to class VIII (Rs. 150/- per girl at primary level and Rs. 250/- per girl at upper level).
Recruitment of 50% women teachers.
Gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials, including textbooks.
Districts with Gender Gaps in enrolment receive attention under SSA. 20 districts with gender gap of over 10 percentage points at the primary level, and 20 percentage points at upper primary level were identified for priority allocation in 2010-11.
Focus on elementary education of satisfaction quality with emphasis on education for life.
Separate toilets for girls
Bridge courses for older girls.
Early Childhood Care and Education Centers in/near schools/convergence with ICDS programme etc.
Teachers' sanitation programmes to promote equitable learning opportunities.
Intensive community mobilization efforts.
'Innovation fund' per district for need based interventions for ensuring girls' attendance and retention.

SSA has brought primary education to the door steps of millions of children and enrolled them including first generation learners. During these period major schemes like district primary education program and the national program of nutrition support to primary education (Mid-day meal scheme) was also launched. Schemes related to exclusively for girls under Elementary education are as follows:

1. Mahila Samakhyas Scheme
2. National program for education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL)
3. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

The schemes for girls like Mahila Samakhyas Scheme, National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme have been launched by MoHRD. Mahila Samakhyas Scheme established Mahila Sangas or "Women Collective" to empower women in rural areas especially from socially and economically marginalized groups. The program focussed on creation of awareness which has resulted in increasing the enrolment and retention rates of girls in school. NPEGEL focuses on "Hardest to Reach" girls, especially those not in school. The scheme is being implemented in educationally backward rural blocks (EBBs). For the promotion of the girl education KGBV scheme provides support for establishment of residential school in each district. Both the schemes are operationalized where the female literacy rate is less than the national average and gender gap is higher than the national average.

The National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) needs to be focused on blocks with Rural Female Literacy Rate (RFLR) below 30% as per 2001 Census as well as the existing criteria of the scheme (i.e. educationally backward blocks (EBBs) where the level of rural female literacy is less than the national average and the gender gap is above the national average; in blocks of districts which are not covered under EBBs but are having at least 5% SC/ST population and where SC/ST female literacy is below 10%; and also in select urban slums). The group also emphasized that the NPEGEL programme instead of fragmented components, should address special projects for girls at risk/girls in difficult circumstances in 6 to 14 years age group. The design of the programme for girls in these blocks could include any of the elements already stipulated in SSA Remedial Teaching, Bridge Courses, Alternative Schools; Child Care Centres; and also initiate several other measures specific to the NPEGEL component to suit context specificities and local requirements.

Secondary Education

Considering the demand generated out of universalization of primary education, the need to set up a mission for universalization of secondary education was envisaged and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan (RMSA) has been launched by the MoHRD to widen access to women, SC/STs, and other deprived categories of children. Schemes like Model schools, ICT@school, Inclusive education for disabled at secondary state, National merit cum means scholarship are also implemented. For the promotion of the girl education at secondary level, the scheme for incentives to girls for secondary education and scheme for establishment of girls' hostels are implemented. The schemes of incentives promote the enrolment of girl child belonging to SC/ST communities in secondary schools and ensure their retention up to the 18 years of age. Girls' hostel scheme envisages construction and running of hostels in educationally backward areas for the promotion of the access and retention of girls at Secondary and Senior Secondary level.

- a. Incentives to girls for Secondary Education
- b. Girls hostel Scheme was launched in 2008-09 and is being implemented from 2009-10.

Vocationalization of Secondary Education

The Centrally sponsored scheme of Vocationalization of Secondary Education is being implemented since 1988 to enhance individual employability and to reduce the mismatch between the demand and supply of skilled manpower and provides alternative for those pursuing higher education. The scheme so far has created a massive infrastructure of 21000 sections in around 9619 schools covering a population of 10.03 lakh students at +2 level. The ministry has also launched very recently the revised scheme of Vocationalization of Secondary Education.

Adult Education

1. Sakshar Bharat is continuity of the earlier National Literacy Mission but with revised design and structure with principal focus on women and excluded groups like SCs, STs and Minorities etc. The mission has four broad objectives, namely,

Impact functional literacy and numeracy to non literate adults.

Enable the neo literate adults to continue their learning beyond basic literacy and acquire equivalency to formal education system.

Impart non and neo literates relevant Skill development programmes to improve their earning and living conditions.

Promote learning society by providing opportunities to neo literate adults for continuing education.

2. Under Saakshar Bharat, out of 410 eligible districts, 372 districts were covered, 78445 Adult Education Centers (AEC) were set up. NIOS has conducted three Learners' Assessment Examinations in which 97 lakh learners' appeared for exam out of which 32 lakh cleared and certified. Targeted women population is 60 million. In 2011-12, the programme is under implementation in 25 States and in 1 UT and covering about 1.61 lakh Gram Panchayats in 372 districts.

3. Jan Shiksha Santhan have been established to promote vocational training to disadvantaged groups of adults such as neo-literates, less-educated slum dwellers, SC and ST and women etc. to raise their efficiency and increase their productive ability. Majority of the beneficiaries are women.

4. Shikshaka Haq Abhiyan: In October 2011, the National Advisory Council (NAC) for RTE took a decision to launch a country wide campaign for RTE. The Prime Minister of India addressed a letter to the children of the country, which was read out on the occasion of National Education Day, 11th November 2011, at a special function organized at Nuh, Mewat, Haryana.

Higher and Technical Education

a. Women's Hostel in higher education institutions

Under this scheme woman hostels are established in the areas where significant population of weaker section and minorities present. The grant for this purpose is provided by University Grants Commission(UGC).

Under Hostel Scheme, 150 women's hostels were established in Higher education institutions.

b. Women Studies Centre in Universities and Colleges

The Women's Studies Programme which was initiated in VII Plan Period, was promoted, strengthened and given direction to over various plan periods by establishing Women's Studies Centres in the University System. As on 31.03.2011, as many as 159 Women's Studies Centres (83 in universities and 76 in colleges) including 28 centres set up in 2010-11, have been

functioning in the University system.

c. Women Polytechnics

As per AICTE, 168 Polytechnics for women are operational in various stages.

d. Women Hostels in Polytechnics

Under this scheme, 481 polytechnics have been provided partial financial assistance of Rs. 202.00 crore till 31.01.12.

e. Establishment of New Model Degree Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts with Low (GER) (UGC).

f. Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education

The scheme of Capacity Building of Women Managers in Higher Education was initiated by UGC in the X Plan period. The overall goal is to facilitate the constituencies of women faculty, administrators and staff within the higher education system to increase the participation of women in higher education management for better gender balance, to sensitize the higher education system through policies and procedures which recognize women equity and diversity and to involve the women capable of becoming administrators for the qualitative development of higher education.

g. Residential Coaching Academy for Minorities and SC/ST/women

Under this scheme Universities and Colleges establish Residential Coaching Academy for UG/PG level students to prepare for NET, Coaching students for entry into services covered under Central and State Governments.

h. Girls Hostels in Minority Concentration Areas

UGC has sanctioned 284 women's hostels during 11th plan in 90 Minority Concentration Districts/Areas. Out of total allocation Rs. 366.49 crore, Rs. 201.55 crore has been released till 15.7.11.

i. Merit Scholarship Scheme

Under this scheme scholarships are directly credited to the Bank account of the student beneficiary. The Merit Scholarship Scheme provides scholarship to 41000 girls every year.

j. Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child for pursuing higher & technical knowledge

This scheme supports higher education through scholarships to only single girl child in family and also promoting small family norm. Under this scheme Rs.2000/- per month for 20 months is provided. As many as 1803 students who have taken admission in 2011-12 academic sessions have been selected for providing scholarship.

Under the scheme of Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child, Rs.4.88 lakhs has been provided to the beneficiaries.

k. Tuition Fee Waiver for Girl Students: The AICTE has a scheme to encourage tuition fee waiver for girl students by providing incentives to Technical Institutions in the form of sanctioning additional intake capacity upto 10%, if the institutions provide tuition fees waiver to at least 10% students, belonging to economically-weaker sections, physically challenged categories and women. With this, the AICTE has also relaxed its norms for establishment of Technical Institutions exclusively for women.

l. Post-doctoral fellowship for women,

The scheme provides for a scholarship of Rs.25,000/-pm for fresh Ph.Ds and Rs.30,000/- to Ph.Ds with 5 years of experience and associateship for 5 years a grant of Rs.50,000/- p.a is given. Rs. 2000/- p.m. (fixed) in cases of physically disabled & blind candidates for Escorts/Reader assistance.

Under the Post-doctoral fellowship for women, 100 slots per year are available. During 2009-10 Rs.9.98 lakhs has been distributed.

Health and Nutrition

A woman in her life-cycle goes through number of challenges in terms of her health and nutritional needs as these are not just dependent on availability and access to health and nutrition services but is closely linked to her status in the society

which constantly deprives her from getting these needs appropriately addressed. Poverty and economic dependence, gender bias and discrimination, limited freedom of choice over sexual and reproductive aspects and lack of decision-making have an adverse impact on health of women. Besides this, there are some determinants of health that impact the health of women such as:

Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
Safe and adequate nutrition
Adequate housing
Healthy & safe working environment
Health literacy, education and information
Gender equality

The importance of bringing improvement in Women's Health and Nutritional Status has been realized and recognized by the Government of India. Several interventions have been introduced and significant improvement has been made however major development challenges still remains to be addressed in terms of adverse gender-specific health indicators (maternal mortality, infant mortality, child sex ratio, mal-nutrition, anaemia etc). This is further substantiated by findings of Census 2011 where the deteriorated trend in the Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years), high maternal and child mortality & morbidity continues to pose a challenge. NFHS-3 survey has also revealed that every third woman in India is undernourished (33.0 per cent have low Body Mass Index) and every second woman is anemic (56.2 per cent women are anemic in the age-group of 15-49).

In the above context, one of the priorities of National Mission for Empowerment of women (NMEW) would be to work towards improvement in maternal and child health through better health and nutritional status of women. The Mission under the domain area of 'Health & Nutrition' would develop appropriate strategy for achieving convergence of health and other interventions to bring-down IMR and MMR to levels projected under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The cell would endeavour to achieve empowerment of women by convergence of different schemes/programmes, encourage health-seeking behaviour and fuel demand through awareness generation for appropriate services to meet women's health and nutritional needs from infancy to old age and would encourage women to make informed decisions about their health. Simultaneously it is planned to undertake/commission research studies, review of policies and programmes, collate and document information and disaggregate data related to health and nutrition.

Policies

Various policies for improving the health and nutrition status have been laid down by Government of India. These policies would be the basis on which Mission would monitor the convergence efforts and facilitate the achievement of various outcome indicators such as reduction in maternal mortality rates, balanced child sex-ratio for 0-6 age group, ensure complete course of immunization, improve nutritional status of mother and infants, and increase in age of marriage and first pregnancy.

National Health Policy 2002- The Policy focuses throughout on the health of the poor, and dedicates a section to the health of women and related socio-economic and cultural issues. The document acknowledges the importance of women's health as a major determinant of the health of entire communities. It also acknowledges that social, cultural and economic factors continue to inhibit women from gaining adequate access even to the existing public health facilities. The policy endorses the need to expand the primary health care infrastructure to increase women's access to care. The policy also advocates the need to review staffing in the public health service, so that it may become more responsive to specific needs of women. The policy recognizes the catalytic role of empowered women in improving the overall health standards of the community.

The Policy affirms the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services, and continuation of the target free approach in administering family planning services. The NPP 2000 provides a policy framework for advancing goals and prioritizing strategies during the next decade, to meet the reproductive and child health needs of the people of India, and to achieve net replacement levels (TFR) by 2010. It is based upon the need to simultaneously address issues of child survival, maternal health, and contraception, while increasing outreach and coverage of a comprehensive package of reproductive and child health services by government, industry and the voluntary non-government sector, working in partnership.

The common features covered under the National Population Policy-2000 and National Health Policy-2002, relate to the prevention and control of communicable diseases; giving priority to the containment of HIV/AIDS infection; the universal immunization of children against all major preventable diseases; addressing the unmet needs for basic and reproductive health services, and supplementation of infrastructure.

National Nutrition Policy 1993- The Policy was introduced to combat the problem of under-nutrition. It aims to address this problem by utilising direct (short term) interventions such as ensuring proper nutrition of children, adolescent girls and pregnant women, food fortification, provisioning low cost nutritious food and combating micro-nutrient and deficiency in vulnerable groups. The indirect (long term) interventions include providing food security, improving dietary pattern and purchasing power through Public Distribution System (PDS), nutrition education, land reforms, community participation and

improving the status of women through education etc.

Schemes

Integrated Child Development Scheme
National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)
National Rural Drinking Water Programme
Nutrition Education and Extension
Old and Infirm Persons Annapurna
Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
Sabla
Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)
Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
Mid Day Meal
Kishori Shakti Yojana
Reproductive & Child Health Programme, Ph.II (RCH II)
National Rural Health Mission
Janani Suraksha Yojana
Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)
Janani Suraksha Yojana
Integrated Child Protection Scheme
Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme
Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY)
Food Security Mission
arva Shiksha Abhiyan

Legislation on Gender Based Issues

The following women specific Acts seek to address gender based violence and gender inequality:

Dowry Prohibition Act 1961: <http://wcd.nic.in/dowryprohibitionact.htm>
Commission of Sati Prevention Act 1987: <http://wcd.nic.in/commissionofsatiprevention.htm>
Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986: <http://wcd.nic.in/irwp.htm>
Immoral Traffic Prevention Act 1956: [http://ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Immoral_Traffic_Prevention_Act_\(ITPA\)_1956.pdf](http://ncpcr.gov.in/Acts/Immoral_Traffic_Prevention_Act_(ITPA)_1956.pdf)
Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Technique Act 1994 and The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Act, 2002: <http://india.gov.in/allimpfrms/allacts/2605.pdf>
Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971: http://bhind.nic.in/Sparsh_MTP-Act-1971.pdf
Maternity Benefit Act 1961: http://pblabour.gov.in/pdf/acts_rules/maternity_benefit_act_1961.pdf

Recent Important Acts pertaining to Gender Rights:

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005: <http://wcd.nic.in/wdvact.pdf>
Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act 2005
The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006: <http://wcd.nic.in/cma2006.pdf>
The Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act 2001

Important Bills pertaining to Gender Rights

The following Bills have been drafted by various government bodies.

Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill 2010 (NCW): <http://ncw.nic.in/frmLNewLaws.aspx>
Sexual Offences Against Children Bill 2010 (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights):
<http://www.ncpcr.gov.in/Bill/Draft%20Bill%20re-revised%2018.11.10%20PROTECTION%20OF%20CHILDREN%20FROM%20SEXUAL%20OFFENCES%20BILL%202010%20versionnov13.pdf>
The Assisted Reproductive Technologies Regulation Bill 2010 (ICMR):
<http://www.icmr.nic.in/guide/ART%20REGULATION%20Draft%20Bill1.pdf>
The Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence Bill 2011 (NAC): http://nac.nic.in/communal/com_bill.htm (Available in Hindi and English)
The Prevention of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill (NCW): <http://ncw.nic.in/frmLNewLaws.aspx>
Recommendations and Suggestions on amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 (NCW)

Legal Aid and Schemes

Article 39 A of the Indian Constitution states 'The State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.'

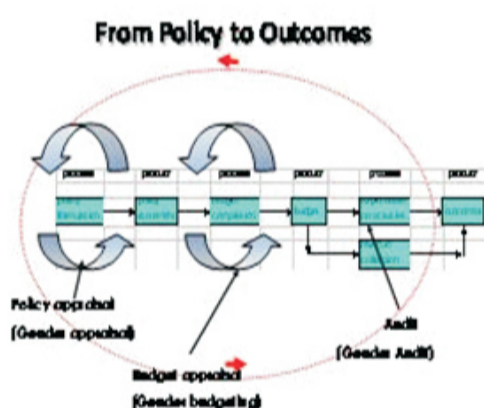
In 1987 the Legal Service Authorities Act was enacted to give a statutory base to legal aid programmes throughout the country. Under section 12 (c) of the Legal Service Authorities Act 1987, all women and children can avail of legal aid. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. For more information, click on <http://nalsa.gov.in/>

Gender Budgeting, Gender Mainstreaming & Gender Audit

About Gender Budgeting

The concept of gender mainstreaming of governmental programmes and policies is based on the premise that unless gender concerns are made an integral part of the planning process and thereafter, consistently carried on to the level of implementation and evaluation, it will not be possible to ensure that women are considered as active actors in nation-building and are empowered in true sense. The need for gender mainstreaming of our policies and planning process is also borne out by the increasing evidence of linkages between women's absence from governance and feminization of poverty. While the efforts on Gender mainstreaming has resulted in setting up of as many as 56 Gender Budget Cells by various Ministries and Departments, a lot of work still remains to be done towards mainstreaming of gender concerns in planning, implementation and review of policies and programmes. The Mission, will not only focus on this issue and universalize the concept, but it will also initiate the process of ascertaining the actual efficacy of such efforts through gender auditing.

Gender Budgeting is a process that entails incorporating a gender perspective at all levels and stages of the budgetary process - planning/ policy/ programme formulation, assessment of needs of target groups, allocation of resources, implementation, impact assessment and prioritization of resources. It may be noted that India is considered to be the first country to institutionalise gender budgeting within the Ministry of Finance, Government of India while following the budgetary accounting framework and analysing the possibilities of changes in the budgetary classification to integrate gender budgeting in the mainstream budgets. Gender budgeting is a step ahead



The five steps of gender analysis of budgets

from the Women's Component
(www.nipfp.org.in/working_paper/wp_2007_46.pdf)

The rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the fact that national budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation and priority accorded to competing sectors. It has been accepted as a tool to transform and transcend traditional perceptions and mind sets towards women and awaken a gender sensitive consciousness to not only enable women to come into the mainstream but also to give them their due recognition as equal citizens of the country.

1. Describe the situation of women and men, girls and boys (and different sub-groups) in the sector
2. Check whether policy is gender-sensitive i.e. whether it addresses the situation you described [Budget speak: 'Activities']
3. Check that adequate budget is allocated to implement the gender-sensitive policy [Budget speak: 'Inputs']
4. Check whether the expenditure is spent as planned [Budget speak: 'Outputs']
5. Examine the impact of the policy and expenditure i.e. whether it has promoted gender equity as intended [Budget speak: 'Outcomes' or 'Impact']

(Source: Sharp R. 2003. Budgeting for equity: Gender budget initiatives within a framework of performance oriented budgeting. United Nations Development Fund for Women: New York.)

Although gender budgeting seems straightforward, in practice, integrating gender considerations in an economically meaningful way in the budget process is a difficult analytical task. A natural question to ask is what is missing in the typical budget process that suggests a need for gender budgeting?

Simple way to do GB : The causes-consequences-solutions exercise The first step is to determine the causes of the problem. This step is important to avoid basing policy on fuzzy thinking. By insisting on a clear explanation of how this causation happens, this step also avoids a tendency to blame everything on concepts such as 'globalisation', or 'gender bias', or 'culture' without specifying which aspects of these big concepts cause the problem. The second step is to describe the consequences. This is important so that policy makers are aware of the consequences of not addressing the issue. In this step it is again important to avoid listing big concepts, such as 'poverty' as consequences. By specifying the consequences more exactly, the analysis will show the link between the problem and the consequences more clearly. The third step is to suggest the solutions to the problem, and determine who is responsible for implementing the solutions. Ideally solutions should address the causes, or root, of the problem. But sometimes this is not possible, at least in the immediate future. In these cases, government might want to address some of the consequences so that they are less severe. Often the causes-consequences-solutions exercise comes up with a fairly long list of solutions. From a budget perspective, it might be impossible for government to implement all of these solutions. And from a practical perspective, government might not be the most appropriate implementer. For example, with gender problems 'awareness-raising' is often offered as a solution. Government is usually not the best implementer for this action. Community groups, religious leaders and institutions, and others might be better. This step therefore helps in prioritising where government should allocate resources, and who it should work with to do what it will not itself do.

Integrating Gender Budgeting into the Budget Process

State of Budget Process	Potential
Budget Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender-specific budget initiatives set forth in the budget policy. 2. Gender policies incorporated into overall budget guidelines and instructions from the central budget office. 3. Gender-specific priorities set for budget allocations within departments for specific agencies.
Budget Approval	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of specific gender guidelines for expenditure and revenue legislation in the overall framework for legislative decision-making. 2. Integration of gender-specific language in legislation establishing new programs and agencies. 3. Use of gender-responsive budgeting guidelines in allocating discretionary resources. 4. Incorporation of gender outcomes into fiscal notes accompanying new spending and revenue legislation.
Budget Execution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of guidelines for spending where there is discretion given to departments by legislative bodies. 2. Development of gender guidelines for outsourcing, procurement, and grant disbursement. 3. Implementation of gender goals in staffing.
Audit and Evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporation of a gender dimension into financial audits that focus on expenditures and compliance. 2. Incorporation of a gender dimension into performance audits that focus on outputs and outcomes. 3. Audit for compliance with gender goals and guidelines.

For details see Rhonda Sharp, Budgeting for equity. Gender budgeting initiatives within a framework of performance oriented budgeting, UNIFEM, New York, 2003.

Types of Audit Financial and compliance audit is the traditional focus of public sector auditing. In financial auditing the auditor assesses the accuracy and fairness of an organisation's financial statements. In compliance auditing the auditor checks whether government revenue and spending have been authorised and used for approved purposes, and whether departments and agencies have conformed to all pertinent laws and regulations. In addition, many audit institutions increasingly produce value for money studies. The term captures the 'Three Es' of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Economy is concerned with minimising the monetary cost of inputs (such as staff and buildings). Efficiency is concerned with the output (a particular good or service) achieved for a set of inputs. Effectiveness considers whether outputs deliver the desired outcomes (the impact on society). It is sometimes summarised that the 'Three Es' each require spending less, spending well, and spending wisely. From a gender perspective, if relevant outcome indicators have been broken down sufficiently, and the budget is linked to policies and development goals, value for money audits can reveal the extent to which budgets have benefited women and men, girls and boys. Source: White et al (1999: 61-74), Kristensen et al (2002), Stapenhurst and Titsworth (2001).

Gender Budgeting in India

Women, constitute 48% of India's population, but they lag behind men on many social indicators like health, education, economic opportunities, etc. The all India sex ratio according to the 2011 Census data is 940 and the world figures are 984 (2011). As per Census 2011, all-India female literacy rate is 65.4 percent and in States like Rajasthan and Bihar the rates hover around 52-53 percent. The 11th Plan pointed out that initiatives need to be taken to raise awareness to ensure that increasing consumerism, move towards market economy and resultant family planning do not enhance gender inequality and lead to male child planning. Hence, they warrant special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources. The Ninth Five Year Plan had a specific objective to achieve in the form of Empowerment of Women. A study carried out by NIPFP, New Delhi in 2007 highlighted the need for conducting gender budgeting based on the empirical evidence that as women and men are at the asymmetric levels of socio-economic development in India especially in the field of health, education and work participation. This study warned that the existing gender neutrality of budgets can lead to many unintentional negative consequences, translating the gender neutrality of budgets into gender blindness. Again to bring in coherence between budget estimates and actuals it is important to understand that higher allocation itself does not lead to pending. (www.nipfp.org.in/working_paper/wp_2007_46.pdf). The way Government budgets allocate resources, has the potential to transform these gender inequalities. In view of this, Gender Budgeting has been adopted by the Government of India as a tool for achieving gender mainstreaming.

Gender Budgeting at Central Government: Budgeting for Women and the Plan Commitments

The planning process in India has evolved over the years from a purely welfare oriented approach to an empowerment oriented approach. Women first secured a special niche and space in the national plans during the Sixth Five year plan with focus on health, education and employment of women. A paradigm shift to gender sensitivity in allocation of resources occurred with the Seventh Five Year Plan (1987-1992), which initiated the monitoring of 27 beneficiary oriented schemes to establish the impact of these schemes on women. The commitment was reaffirmed in the Eighth Plan (1992-1997) which highlighted on the need to ensure a definite flow of funds from the general developmental sectors to women. The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) marked a significant progress with 30% of funds earmarked in all women's related sectors. It adopted the 'Women's Component Plan' as one of the major strategies and directed both the Central and State Governments to ensure ♦ not less than 30 per cent of the funds/benefits are earmarked in all the women's related sectors.

Related sites:

Women Component Plan, A Holistic Gender Budgeting Tool, By Manu Alphonse, Tamilnadu People's Forum for Social Development

Study of Women Component Plan in Kerala, <http://www.sird.kerala.gov.in/womencomp.htm>

Women's Component Plan and Gender Budgeting in India: Still a Long Way to Go,

http://www.cbgaindia.org/files/featured_articles/WCP%20&%20Gender%20Budgeting%20in%20India-%20Still%20a%20Long%20Way%20to%20Go.pdf

The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) highlighted on the need for gender budgeting to establish the gender differential impact of resource allocations and to translate gender commitments into budgetary commitments. It focused on tying up '...two effective concepts of Women Component Plan and Gender Budgeting to play a complementary role to each other'. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007- 2012) further reiterated the commitment to gender budgeting and clearly stated that, 'gender equity requires adequate provisions to be made in policies and schemes across Ministries and Departments. It also entails strict adherence to gender budgeting across the board'. The Eleventh Plan also envisaged the incorporation of Gender

Budgeting beyond traditional areas like health, education etc to so called 'gender neutral' sectors like Transport, Power, Telecommunications, Defence, etc. In addition, the plan document emphasized on engendering of important national macro-economic policies and striving for inter-sectoral convergence. Also refer to Engendering the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-2012, <http://www.unifem.org.in/PDF/11th%20plan%20report.pdf>

The Beginning of Gender Budgeting

A special reference by the Finance Minister of India in his Budget speech pertaining to the access of women to national resources marked the dawn of gender-sensitive budgeting in India and stated that there is an urgent need of improving the access of women to national resources and for ensuring their rightful place in the mainstream of economic development. Towards this objective, the Government will set up a Task Force under an eminent person to review all existing legislation and Government schemes pertaining to the role of women in the national economy. The Task Force will help us chalk out specific programmes for observing 2001 as Women's Empowerment Year.

Subsequently, in 2001, the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) commissioned the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi to undertake a study on Gender Related Economic Policy Issues, to cover: parameters to identify status of women; Quantification of contribution of women; Assessing impact of Government Budget on women; Role women can play in improving institutional framework for delivery of public services. Based on the interim report of the NIPFP, (January 2001), for the first time, the Economic Survey 2000-2001 highlighted issues like, Gender Inequality and Status of Women. Thus gender equality and empowerment of women have been recognized as economic goals and this continues as a regular feature every year. The second interim report of the NIPFP (August 2001), analysed the Union Budget 2001-02 from a gender perspective. This was followed up with workshops in October (3rd & 4th) 2001 and December (6th) 2001 which culminating in initiation of measures to undertake analysis of State Budgets through a network of research institutions and gender experts, under the coordination of NIPCCD, broadly adopting the methodology of the NIPFP Report on the Union Budget. The Department then elicited expenditure on women, based on the model adopted by the NIPFP, for the Union Budgets in the succeeding years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and reflected broad results in the Annual Reports. This became a step forward in the direction of Gender Analysis of the Union Budget.

Furthering the process of reviewing gender specific allocations, a letter was sent to all Secretaries from the Cabinet Secretary in January 2003, which strongly recommended that a chapter on gender issues should be devoted by all Ministries and departments in their annual reports. The letter recommended that the chapter could include the new initiatives taken by respective Ministries/departments and by the organisations under their control, the existing schemes and the policy on women and gender related issues, resources available and their utilisation for these schemes/activities and gender disaggregated statistics, to mention a few. In 2004, the Ministry of Finance constituted an Expert Group on classification system of Government transactions under the Chairmanship of the Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India. One of the terms of reference of the Expert Group was to examine the feasibility of and suggest the general approach to Gender Budgeting and economic classification. For details, see <http://finmin.nic.in/reports/ReportExpGrGovTrans.pdf>

The Group recommended the adoption of Gender Budgeting by the Government as also the setting up of a Gender Budgeting Directorate (GBD) in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and an Inter- Departmental Committee chaired by Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance, with Secretary, Department of Woman & Child Development (WCD) as one of its members. The report of the Expert Group was accepted by the Government and an inter-departmental committee was constituted in November 2004 with the approval of Finance Minister. The committee chaired by Secretary, Expenditure, included as members - Chief Economic Advisor, DEA, Ministry of Finance, Secretary (WCD), CGA, Deptt. Of Expenditure, Principal Advisor (SJ&WE), Planning Commission, JS(Budget), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, JS(PF-II), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Gender Budgeting in Union Budgets

2005-06 - Para 25. Last July, I promised to consider gender budgeting. Honorable Members will be happy to note that I have included in the Budget documents a separate statement highlighting the gender sensitivities of the budgetary allocations under 10 demands for grants. The total amount in BE 2005-06, according to the statement, is Rs.14,379 crore. Although this is another first in budget-making in India, it is only a beginning and, in course of time, all Departments will be required to present gender budgets as well as make benefit-incidence analyses. (<http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2005-06/bs/speecha.htm>). 2006-07 - Para 30. Last year, I introduced a statement highlighting the gender sensitivities of the budgetary allocations. I was able to cover 10 demands for grants. This time, I have been able to enlarge the statement on gender budgeting to include schemes where 100 per cent of the allocation is for the benefit of women as well as schemes where at least 30 per cent of the allocation is targeted towards women. The statement now covers 24 demands for grants in 18 Ministries/Departments and five Union Territories and schemes with an outlay of Rs.28,737 crore. (<http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2006-07/bs/speecha.htm>)

2007-08 - Para 39. There is growing awareness of gender sensitivities of budgetary allocations. 50 ministries/departments have set up gender budgeting cells. For 2007-08, 27 ministries/ departments and 5 Union Territories covering 33 demands for grants have contributed to a statement placed in the budget papers. The outlay for 100 per cent women

specific programmes is Rs.8,795 crore and for schemes where at least 30 per cent is for women specific programmes is Rs.22,382 crore. We have made a sincere effort to remove the errors that were pointed out in last year's statement. (<http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2007-08/bs/speecha.htm>)

2008-09 Para 49. I confess that policy makers often tend to forget that one-half of the population is constituted by women and they are entitled to an equal share - and an equal say - in all programmes and schemes. Gender Budgeting has gained wider acceptance and credibility. Four more ministries/departments have set up gender budgeting cells taking the total number to 54. Honourable Members will find in the Budget documents a statement embracing 33 demands for grants contributed by 27 ministries/departments and 5 Union Territories. According to the statement, Rs.11,460 crore has been provided for 100 per cent women-specific schemes and Rs.16,202 crore for schemes where at least 30 per cent is for women-specific programmes. <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2008-09/bs/speecha.htm>

Gender Budget Statements - Gender Budget statement is a citizen friendly disclosure of budget allocation that have a bearing on women, with the objective of enhancing gender equality. India has been presenting the Gender Budget statement since 2005-06. The magnitude of budget as reflected in the Gender budget Statement is as follows:

Year	No. of Ministries (No. of Demands)	Total Magnitude of Gender Budget (BE) (in Rs. Crore)
2005-06	9 (10)	14378.68 (2.79 %)
2006-07	18 (24)	28736.53 (5.09%)
2007-08	27 (33)	31177.96 (4.5%)
2008-09	27 (33)	27661.67 (3.68%)
2009-10	27 (33)	56857.61 (5.57%)
2010-11	28 (33)	67749.80 (6.11%)
2011-12	29 (36)	78251.02 (6.22%)

NGO Initiatives

Grassroots organising around budgets, Rajasthan, India: In the early nineties, a mass-based organisation called the Mazdoor (Labour) Kisan (Farmer) Shakti (Strength) Sangathan (Organisation) (MKSS) started working in one of the most neglected areas of Rajasthan. Members of the core group went from village to village asking a simple question: did the people know how much money was coming to their village for development and where it was being spent? This was a simple question the poor could understand but had not dared to ask before. The MKSS went to the government administration to ask for detailed information on development expenditure. They were told there was no government rule allowing villagers to have this information. To penetrate this 'Iron Curtain' between the community and the government, the MKSS launched a people's campaign, the biggest public campaign since the Freedom Movement in the 1940s. The campaign included public hearings where villagers shared stories of corruption with several thousand people. Other activities included sit-in protests and strikes.

SUMMARY -

This paper has highlighted the comprehensive approach of government of India to improve the women's status especially economic and educational. The schemes launched and being implemented by the ministry of human resource development, housing and urban poverty alleviation, rural development, Panchayat Raj, law and justice etc. are discussed in detail. The paper concluded by stating major gaps and implementation process which prevents women to take the benefit of existing schemes.

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