

National Women Policies Implementation: Issues and Challenges

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ABSTRACT:

Women's Empowerment has been an issue of immense discussions and contemplation over the last few decades world-wide. This as an agenda has been on top of the lists of most government plans & programs as well. Efforts have been made on a regular basis across nations to address this issue and enhance the socio-economic status of women. However, it has been observed that most of the policies and programs view empowerment in the economic sense only working in the belief that economic self-reliance empowers women ignoring other variables like health, education, literacy etc. Introduction In the history of human development, woman has been as important as man. In fact, the status, employment and work performed by women in society are the indicator of a nation's overall progress. Without the participation of women in national activities, the social, economic or political progress of a country will be stagnated. Women constitute half of the humanity, even contributing two-thirds of world's work hours. She earns only one-third of the total income and owns less than one-tenth of the world's resources. This shows that the economic status of women is in pathetic condition and this is more so in a country like India. "Women constitute nearly 50 per cent of population, perform two-thirds of the work and produce 50 per cent of food commodities consumed by the country. They earn one third of remuneration and own 10 per cent of the property or wealth of the country".

Keywords: National women policies, Implementations, Issues and Challenges, Status of women, National policy.

INTRODUCTION:

Our only source of nutrition is the environment that surrounds us. If the ecosystem around us survives, we will live to tell the story. Man's instinct in his interaction with nature is to take rather than give and destroy rather than replenish. It is crucial to several difficulties, not just for various plants and animals but also for our ancestors' well-being. Our initiative and determination can only slow down the widespread deterioration of the environment. As a result, we have legal rules aimed at environmental conservation. Several historical examples have been provided to demonstrate how this multitude of judgments has underlined the need to protect the environment. It may also be claimed that the Supreme Court docket has had a significant role in establishing environmental law. In addition, fundamental rights are essential and cannot be infringed upon, although they may be dealt with in line with reasonable limitations. A healthy environment is essential because it encourages excellent health in a more significant population, resulting in minor resource diversion or enormous expenditure on people's treatment. The poor suffer the most in these circumstances since they lack the financial means to pay for their medical needs. Furthermore, healthy people are tremendous assets to the United States. When they are healthy and fit, they can contribute significantly to the economy and help the country flourish by paving the way for progress, creating jobs, and increasing GDP.

UNDERSTANDING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

While acknowledging women's access to education and work, it is discovered that gender gaps remain in each setting. There is a significant gender gap in literacy, with women accounting for less than half of all students at all levels of schooling. Similarly, fewer than half of women

are working, and many are no longer compensated for their efforts. Governmental organisations' work necessitates a multifaceted approach. As a result, a wide range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) has risen to prominence in the sector, from grassroots to national and global levels. NGO programmes and features also contribute to the achievement of long-term community improvement and, as a result, girls' empowerment. Due to monetary needs and mainstream women's contribution to society's overall growth and development, women's traditional roles have changed in recent years. Entrepreneurship Development and profit-generating activities are viable options for empowering women. Microfinance via Self Help Groups (SHGs) is a fantastic way to promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. It is no longer just an effective weapon for combating poverty but also a means of promoting the empowerment of the most marginalised groups of the population, particularly women. Women's empowerment and gender equality are now widely recognised as critical issues for success in all fields. SHGs are specifically designed for women, according to financial security studies, and they have shown to be very effective in places like Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In conjunction with industrial banks and regional rural banks, NABARD established a pilot project for girls on SHGs. The RBI understands the role and importance of SHGs in financing and, with the help of NABARD, has extended medium-sized loans to female entrepreneurs.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Girls' status in India deteriorated from historical to mediaeval periods, prior to the championing of equal rights by a number of reformers. Females are still subjected to discrimination and oppression today. In this sense, the positive parts of the National Policy on Women 2016 are significant.

National Policy for Women 2016

The Indian government presented the Draft National Policy for Women in 2016 to "re-scripting" women's empowerment via a "socially inclusive rights-based approach." It was first introduced by the Ministry of Women and Children's Development (MWCD).

Status of women in India

Women are said to have had roughly equal status with males in ancient India, notably during the early Vedic Period. However, with the arrival of Manusmriti, women's position was reduced to that of second-class citizens. With the arrival of Muslim monarchs in India during the mediaeval era, women's conditions deteriorated.

- Women's empowerment was a priority for reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- The Indian Constitution has paid special attention to the requirements of women in India, allowing them to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with men and participate in national progress.

Provisions in the Indian Constitution to shield women's rights:

In India, the constitution aims to create specific protections for women. Preamble: The Preamble to the Indian Constitution guarantees social, economic, and political justice and equality of opportunity and dignity to individuals. As a result, it treats men and women equally.

Fundamental Rights:

- Article 14 ensures to girls the proper to equality.
- Article 15(1) in particular prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.
- Article 15(3) empowers the State to take affirmative moves in favour of women.
- Article sixteen offers for equality of chance for all citizens in matters bearing on to employment or appointment to any office.

Directive Principles of State Policy:

- Article 39 (a) presents that the nation directs its policy toward securing for men and women equally the right to an ample skill of livelihood.
- Article 39 (d) mandates equal pay for equal work for each men and women.
- Article 42 provides that the state make provision for securing simply and humane stipulations of work and for maternity relief.

Why does India need a National Policy for Women?

Given the long-term nature of the issues that affect girls in India, it is necessary to strengthen the methods that promote the overall development of girls by focusing on a coordinated approach for implementing the schemes of the concerned Ministries/Departments and cultivating an enabling environment conducive to social change. Despite the extraordinary measures that the government has taken for the welfare of girls in India, they are still facing issues. This change has been attempted to be addressed in this proposed policy. It will lay out the government's plans for women in India for the next 15-20 years.

Previous regulation and policies for women:

In 1976, the National Plan of Action (1976) was implemented, providing recommendations based on the United Nations 'World Plan of Action for Women,' with a particular focus on health, family planning, nutrition, education, employment, regulation, and social welfare for the formulation and implementation of action programmes for women.

- The National Policy on Education 1986, which focused on providing academic opportunities to women, was adopted during the 7th Plan period, and the reservations provided to girls through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1992 in local bodies have enabled them to be brought to the forefront in the nation's efforts to support democratic institutions.

- In 2001, the Indian government created the National Policy for Women's Empowerment to promote women's growth, development, and empowerment while combating discrimination against women. It was formerly aimed at ensuring an inclusive rise with different focus on women.

- India has also ratified several United Nations agreements, including the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Convention on the Child's Rights. Welfare schemes for girls in India Beti Bachao Beti Padhao It aims to undertake coordinated and convergent efforts to ensure the lady child's life, protection, and education.

- The Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) is a Central Sector Scheme that aims to improve the skills of poor and assetless women and provide long-term employment by mobilising them into manageable cooperative groups, strengthening advertising links, giving guidance, and gaining access to credit.

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) — 'SABLA':

It is a government-sponsored programme that aims to address nutritional requirements and give vocational training to women over sixteen to help them achieve economic independence.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh — (National Credit Fund for Women):

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women) was established in 1993 with a capital of Rs. 31 crores in response to the socioeconomic challenges poor women face in obtaining micro-credit through official banking system in the nation, particularly in rural and unorganised sectors.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) — Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) Scheme:

- It is a Conditional Cash Transfer programme for pregnant and breastfeeding females that aims to contribute to a better enabling environment by providing financial incentives for pregnant and nursing moms to improve their fitness and nutrition.

Ujjwala Scheme:

- Ujjwala is a comprehensive programme that began in 2007 to prevent human trafficking and rescue, rehabilitate, and reintegrate victims of industrial sexual exploitation.

SWADHAR (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances):

- It aims to protect women in vulnerable situations such as widows, poor and abandoned women, ex-prisoners, victims of sexual abuse and crimes, including those trafficked and rescued from brothels, and migrant or refugee women who natural disasters have displaced.

Characteristics of the 2016 Draft National Policy for Women:

- The coverage is based on the Pam Rajput Committee paper, established by the MWCD in 2012 and delivered its recommendations in 2016, which included a revised national policy for women and a motion designed to end violence against women.
- Maternal and perinatal mortality will remain a priority, with a coordinated referral transport system for safe births and emergency obstetric care available in rugged, remote, and isolated places.
- It aims to adopt "a gender transformational health policy" that focuses household planning efforts on male sterilisation rather than lady sterilisation.
- It prioritises girls' diets throughout their lives and strengthens geriatric care to serve women over 60, who make up 8.4% of the population.
- It proposes "new transportation solutions" such as "cluster pooling of minibuses" to alleviate the difficulty of crossing the distance between

home and school. to increase the number of females enrolled in secondary schools and to maintain current female pupils.

- The policy discusses including men and boys via lobbying, awarenessraising programmes, and community programmes to instil a love for women in men from an early age.
- It also notes that more women are turning to artificial reproductive procedures. It suggests that measures be made to protect the rights of surrogate mothers, commissioning moms, and the children born via surrogacy.
- It discusses creating "a comprehensive social protection apparatus" to address the vulnerabilities of widows, unmarried, abandoned, separated, and divorced women and provide opportunities for them, such as constructing a 1000-room haven in Vrindavan for widows and other motivated women.
- The trafficking of women is another issue that the news concentrates on. The draught overage includes efforts to build a unified and comprehensive database on violence against women, strict monitoring of (law) enforcement organisations' responses to violence against women, ti a-bound trials of heinous crimes against women, and the strengthening of naari adalats and household courts, among other things.
- It also focuses on increasing female participation in the workforce and politics (through need-based training), closing the gender wage gap, developing entrepreneurial opportunities for girls (through schemes like E-haats), recognising the economic and societal value of women's unpaid work (at home), achieving gender fairness in agriculture, and highquality implementation of criminal provisions to ensure women's rights to immovable residences.
- The coverage aims to improve security environments through initiatives such as one-stop shops, women's helplines, Mahila police volunteers, women's reservation in the police force, increasing instantaneous

response mechanisms through panic buttons on cell phones, public and private transportation, and public surveillance.

Conclusion:

Even though the strategy aims to empower girls and takes into account women's interests, it remains mute on the issue of marital rape. The plan promises to recognise difficulties in gender roles brought about by "the new century, and the dynamics of a rapidly changing global and national environment" and more conventional women's empowerment programmes. Making laws on my own, however, is no longer adequate. Changes in cultural attitudes about women, behavioural changes involving both men and women, and the formation of family and women's groups are all needed. Only then can we begin ensuring that women have the same rights and protections as men.

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4. How to cite this article: Afsana S (2017), Women Empowerment: Issues and Challenges, *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, Vol. 4 (3), DIP:18.01.239/20170403.