

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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### Abstract

Women's [empowerment](#) refers to accepting women's viewpoints, sense of self-worth, or making an effort to seek them by raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment furnishes and concedes women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society. Women have the opportunity to reconsider [gender roles](#) or other related roles, which in return may permit them more freedom to pursue desired goals. The research is based on secondary data. The paper examined that in the face of today's era, the empowerment of women is one of the important aspects in developing the nations all around the world, not just in India alone. In spite of so many efforts took by the government and NGOs the present scenario related to women empowerment is not satisfactory. Little access to provide education and employment can only accelerate the process but we need to change the attitude of the people. Sometimes women themselves create this gender biasness between their son and daughter that will lead to conflicts among them. Until this attitude is not changed, one cannot say that women are empowered in India in any sense.

**Keywords:** Women empowerment, Government Schemes.

### Introduction

Women's [empowerment](#) refers to accepting women's viewpoints, sense of self-worth, or making an effort to seek them by raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training.[\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]](#) Women's empowerment furnish and concedes women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society.[\[3\]](#) Women have the opportunity to reconsider [gender roles](#) or other related roles, which in return may permit them more freedom to pursue desired goals.

In India, women's empowerment is massively dependent on many different variables, such as geographical location (urban or rural), educational status (class) social status (caste) and age. For women's empowerment so many policies exist at the national, state and local (Panchayat) levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities and political participation etc. However it seems that there are significant gap between policy advancements and actual practice at the community level.<sup>(4)</sup>

Women have suffered a lot through the past years at the hands of men. In earlier centuries, women were treated as almost devoid member of society. All the rights have been given to men even the basic right of voting also given to men. As the times progress, women came into existence and realized their power. There on began the period of revolution for women empowerment.

### **Review of Literature**

**Singh, S. and Singh, A. (2020)** critically investigated the Indian status among other countries and tries to find out preparedness to achieve Sustainable development Goal -5 of the United Nations. The paper critically examines women empowerment in India, various models and dimensions. The paper discusses constitutional safe guards as well as plans and programmes by the government and their implementation, indicators of women empowerment. However, the country ranks low while comparing with other countries. There is need of reassessing and modifying programmes to achieve SDG-5 by 2030.

**Menon, S. Ranjitha, M and Sharma, S (2020)** revealed that decision-making power in households and freedom of movement of women varies considerably with age, education, and employment. Very few women had the final say on how their earnings were spent. Control over cash earnings increased with age and education. The study also indicates that educational qualifications and access to employment are the essential factors that promote women's empowerment, but the degree of achievement of the goal depends mostly on the attitude of the general population towards gender equality.

**Shettar, M. R (2015)** revealed that women of India are relatively disempowered and they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of men in spite of many efforts undertaken by Government. It is found that acceptance of unequal gender norms by women are still prevailing in the society. The study concludes by an observation that access to Education, Employment and Change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment.

**H. Subrahmanyam (2011)** compared women education in India at present and Past. Author highlighted that there has a good progress in overall enrolment of girl students in schools. The term empowers means to give lawful power or authority to act. It is the process of acquiring some activities of women.

### **Government Schemes for Women Empowerment**

The Government programmes for women development began as early as 1954 in India but the actual implementation began only in 1974. At present, the Government of India has over 41 schemes for women empowerment operated by different department and ministries. Some of these are as follows:

1. Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993.
3. Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995.
4. Women Entrepreneur Development programme given top priority in 1997-98.
5. Mahila Samakhya being implemented in about 9000 villages.
6. Swayamsidha.
7. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975).
8. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP).
9. Swavlamban.
10. Creches/ Day care centre for the children of working and ailing mother.
11. Hostels for working women.
12. Swadhar.
13. National Mission for Empowerment of Women.
14. Swa Shakti Group.
15. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) (2010).
16. The Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers.
17. Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010).
18. Dhanlakshmi (2008).

19. Short Stay Homes.
20. Ujjawala (2007).
21. Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XI Plan).
22. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).
23. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM).
24. Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).
25. Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS).
26. Working Womens Hostel.
27. Indira Mahila Kendra.
28. Mahila Samiti Yojana.
29. Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
30. Indira Priyadarshini Yojana.
31. SBI's Shree Shakti Scheme.
32. SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi.
33. NGO's Credit Schemes.
34. National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development Scheme (NBARD)
35. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
36. One Stop Centre Scheme
37. Women Helpline Scheme
38. Mahila E-Haat
39. Mahila Police Volunteers
40. SWADHAR Greh
41. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

Some of them are discussed below:

### **1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme**

This scheme was launched on [22nd January 2015](#) by the Prime Minister of India in Haryana, the objective of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme is ensuring survival, protection and education of girl children. The main aim of the scheme is to address issues of the declining sex ratio over the past few years, create social awareness and enhance the efficiency of welfare services developed specially for girls.

## **2. Working Women Hostel**

This scheme works on promoting safe accommodation and environment for working women and provides daycare facilities for their children. This scheme comes under the Government of India. Through this women empowerment scheme, the Government provides funds for construction and new hostel buildings and extension of an existing building in rented premises.

## **3. One Stop Centre Scheme**

One Stop Centre Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme and is funded through the Nirbhaya fund. State governments receive 100% central assistance to protect women affected by violence such as acid attacks, rape, and sexual harassment in public and private spaces. This scheme expedites emergency (medical), legal aid and counselling, non-emergency services under the one roof to resist all forms of violence against women.

## **4. Women Helpline Scheme**

This is one of the government schemes for women empowerment which gives 24x7 emergency responses to women affected by violence in private or public spaces. The universalization of women helpline numbers has been done in every State and Union Territory through a single toll-free number (181) that provides immediate support to women all around the world.

## **5. Mahila E-Haat**

This scheme was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It is one of the schemes of women empowerment in India which provides an opportunity for women entrepreneurs for using new technology and presents their products (made/manufactured/sold) on an online platform.

## **6. Mahila Police Volunteers**

The Mahila Police Volunteers scheme was launched in all States and Union Territories by

the Ministry of Women and Child Development along with Home Affairs. The aim of central government-sponsored scheme is to create a link between police authorities and local communities to ensure police outreach on crime cases. This scheme works to create a safe woman-friendly environment and motivate women to join the police force.

#### **7. STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women)**

The scheme was introduced to provide training in the skill development and side by side to assure employment to women. This scheme offers grants to institutions and organisations to conduct the training programme for the women.

#### **8. SWADHAR Greh**

SWADHAR Greh, as the name depicts aims to provide shelter, food, clothing, social, economic and health security to women for women's empowerment in India. This scheme basically provides legal assistance to women and also helps them to take initiative for readjusting in societies.

#### **9. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)**

Another popular scheme for women empowerment in India is Mahila Shakti Kendra. The aim of the scheme is to provide one-stop convergent support services to women to develop skills, generate employment opportunities, and increase digital literacy. This scheme works at multiple levels, such as national level, state level, and district level.

#### **Conclusion**

The rise of women's status to one of equality, freedom, and dignity is still a distant dream even in the present era. India has been looking to strengthen women's empowerment in social and economic fields through promoting schemes, guidelines, packages and programmes for the past five years. Nobody can deny the efforts done by the Government which can be seen in the improvement of the situation, considering that the women of the today are educated to a great extent, up to the level of graduation, and are also occupying higher management positions. Some women have become entrepreneurs.

In the face of today's era, the empowerment of women is one of the important aspects in developing the nations all around the world, not just in India alone. In spite of so many efforts took by the government and NGOs the present scenario related to women empowerment is not satisfactory. Little access to provide education and employment can

only accelerate the process but we need to change the attitude of the people. Sometimes women themselves create this gender biasness between their son and daughter that will lead to conflicts among them. Until this attitude is not changed, one cannot say that women are empowered in India in any sense. <sup>(6)</sup>

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