

A Study on Schemes for Government of India in Women and Children's

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Abstract

The Eleventh Plan recognized women as change agents and acknowledged the rights of children regardless of vulnerabilities of their class, caste, religion, ethnicity, regional, and gender status. The Plan envisioned inclusive growth and advocated ending the exclusion and discrimination faced by women and children. The first half of the Plan saw the introduction of some new schemes to tackle issues of declining sex ratio, trafficking, and child protection. Existing schemes were modified to plug the gaps identified by various organizations and experts. The past four years have seen path-breaking legislations like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005. While these steps are important and signify progress, there has been little visible change in the living realities of women and children. At the sametime, many important schemes that were suggested in the Plan document have not taken off. For instance, a comprehensive scheme on single women, a national task force for women in conflict areas, a scheme for internally displaced women, and a high level committee to review SHG policies and programmes have not taken off. The is delay will further slow downthe already long drawn process of ensuring that women's development is truly inclusive. And also for The Department of Women & Child Development is also implementing schemes forsocial and economic empowerment of womenlike Swayamsidha, Swawlamban, Swa-Shakti, and Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) etc. Theseprogrammes encourage women to form Self HelpGroups, and also include Provision of Education, Vocational Training, Credit, Marketing linkages, Awareness generation regarding Health, Nutrition, Women's legal rights etc. Besides, the Department is implementing Schemes forrehabilitation of women in difficultcircumstances like Swadhar, Short Stay Homes. The main objective of these Schemes isrehabilitation of Trafficked Women/Girlsrescued from brothels, victims of sexual crimes,mentally challenged women, orphan/destitute women, etc.

Key words: *schemes, government, India, women and children's, etc.*

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Introduction

Women and children constitute around 70 % of India's people and are the critical foundation for national development – at present and in the future. More inclusive growth must begin with children and women- breaking an intergenerational cycle of inequity and multiple deprivations faced by women and girls, as related to poverty, social exclusion, and gender discrimination and undernutrition. This intergenerational cycle of multiple deprivation and violence faced by girls and women is reflected in the adverse and steeply declining child sex ratio in children under 6 years of age which reached an all time low of 918 girls for every 1000 boys in 2011. These commitments are embodied in the Constitution and in several enabling legislations, policies (such as the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 2001, National Policy for Children 2013 and the National Nutrition Policy 1993), Five Year and Annual Plans and programmes. Despite this there are several challenges that remain and key issues which need to be addressed urgently. These include ensuring Women's Safety, Protection and Empowerment, improving the Child Sex Ratio, ensuring Child Protection and preventing and reducing Maternal and Child Under nutrition and controlling anemia across the life cycle.

Research Methodology

This is a descriptive research paper, where secondary information produced by different authors and researchers has been used. For obtaining necessary information, various books, journals as well as websites have been explored by the researcher which has been mentioned in the reference section.

Objectives

- To assess the growth of women and children's.
- To study specific programs /policy /schemes growth for women and children's.

Major Schemes for Women and Children;

A Balika Samriddhi Yojana (BSY)

- Balika Samriddhi Yojana is a scheme introduced for the survival of the girl child, her education and with a view to ensure that she is not married before the age of 18. It is a very important scheme which can be effective in reversing the present trend of increasing female feticide. The scheme visualizes a cash deposit in the joint name of a girl child born in a BPL family and an ICDS functionary, as well as subsequent scholarships to be paid as the girl continues to receive her education. The Department is in the process of revamping the scheme for making it effective for the beneficiaries.

Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)

- Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) is a special intervention devised for adolescent girls in the Age group of 11-18 years, using the ICDS infrastructure. This intervention seeks to address their needs for self-development, nutrition and health status, literacy and numerical skills, vocational skills etc. At present, it is sanctioned in 2000 blocks across the country, providing funds @ Rs. 1.10 lakh per block per annum. Along with expansion of ICDS, a proposal has also been moved to expand KSY to all the ICDS Blocks in the country.

Schemes for Education of Children (SEC)

- The Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act came into force in the year 2010 which provides the right of children to free and compulsory education in the neighborhood school which are to be established within 3 years time period. The provisions relating to school infrastructure and Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), training to untrained teachers, quality interventions are prescribed under the Act.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme (SSA);

- Aim to provide free and compulsory elementary education to all children in 6-14 age by 2010. The scheme provides school infrastructure and quality improvement in education of the children. The objectives of the scheme is that all children to be in school and universal retention by 2010, bridging all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by the year 2010. The Government of India is committed to realize the goal of universalisation of elementary education by 2010.

Swayamsidha

- Swayamsidha is an integrated scheme for women's empowerment. It is based on the formation of women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and aims at the holistic empowerment of women through awareness generation, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes. Grants are released to States for project implementation. SHGs are formed through the ICDS machinery in most of the States. A few States such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Tamil Nadu, Bihar etc. take help from NGOs for the purpose. This is being implemented in 650 blocks spread over 33 States.

Anganwadi Workers/Helpers

- The Anganwadi Worker, who is but an honorary worker, is yet the most visible village level Functionary of the Government, and is being

increasingly used for delivery of many other programmes & schemes of Central & State Governments,.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan;

- Secondary Education is a crucial stage in the educational hierarchy as it prepares the students for higher education and also for the world of work. Classes IX and X constitute the secondary stage, whereas classes XI and XII are designated as the higher secondary stage. The normal age group of the children in secondary classes is 14-16 whereas it is 16-18 for higher secondary classes. The rigor of the secondary and higher secondary stage, enables Indian students to compete successfully for education and for jobs globally. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to strengthen this stage by providing greater access and also by improving quality in a significant way.

Focus for SC/ST/Minority under the RMSA, Scheme

- There are certain disadvantaged groups that need to be addressed to solve issues of equity. They are (i) girls, (ii) children belonging to various socio-economically backward communities and (iii) ethnic and religious minorities, (iv) migrants (v) differently able people. Secondary education has not equally benefited all. As expansion reaches an initial threshold, gender differences begin to emerge. Cultural factors that favour sending boys to school while keeping girls at home to look after younger siblings, combined with low expectations that girls will enter the job market, are often cited as the primary reasons for gender differentials in secondary school enrolments. In the planning of RMSA programmes for girls, every activity under the programme will be judged in terms of its gender component. The educational development of children belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Educationally Backward Minorities is special focus in the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. Every activity under the programme must identify the benefit that will accrue to children from these communities. The interventions for children belonging to SC/ST communities have to be based on the intensive micro-planning addressing the needs of every child. Such micro-plans should be approved by respective Block Panchayat or appropriate Committee of the BP. The RMSA provides flexibility to local units to develop a context specific intervention. While addressing issues of parity for SC/ST/Minority/Girls, the plan will have to look at strategies for access, retention, and quality under each of the group targeted at.

Swawlamban Programme

- Swawlamban Programme, previously known as NORAD/Women's Economic Programme, was launched in 1982-83 with assistance from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The objective of the programme is to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them to obtain employment or self-employment on a sustained basis. The target groups under the scheme are the poor and need women, women from weaker sections of the society, such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, etc.

Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls - a Pilot Project

- To provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, the Planning Commission launched a Pilot Project in 51 identified districts throughout the country in 2002-03. The Project was implemented in 2 backward districts, each, in major States, identified on the basis of ranking developed by RD Division of Planning Commission on an index derived from three parameters:
- Value of output per agriculture worker, 2. Agriculture wage rate and 3. Percentage of SC/ST population in the district. Equal weightage was given to each of the three parameters and in the most populous district (excluding the capital district), each, in smaller States/ UTs. A statement indicating State wise details of districts under Pilot Project is at Annexure XIII. A sum of Rs.53.96 crore and Rs.40.04 crore were released to the States in 2002-03 & 2003-04 respectively for the implementation of the pilot project.

Universal Children's Day

- India observes Universal Children's Day on 14th November every year. The Day enables us to review the progress made in attaining the decadal goals, identify gaps and constraints and work out strategies to reach the time-bound goals. The Children's Day was celebrated in 2004 in a function by presentation of the National Child Awards for Exceptional Achievement for the years.

Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP)

- This programme seeks to provide skills and new knowledge to poor and assetless women in the traditional sectors. Under this project, women beneficiaries are organized into viable and cohesive groups or cooperatives. A comprehensive package of services such as health care, elementary education, crèche facility, market linkages, etc. is provided besides access to credit. Skill development is provided in ten traditional skills amongst women. This is a Central Scheme launched in 1987. The Ministry is at present getting

the programme evaluated. Based on the results of the evaluation, the scheme is proposed to be revamped. Further, the possibilities of providing training and skills to women both in traditional and non-traditional sectors and integrating with Rashtriya Mahila Kosh for credit linkages are being considered. A sum of Rs. 240 crore is proposed for the scheme in the XI Plan.

Training for Rural Youth Self-Employment (TRYSEM)

- The programme is to train rural youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years for the provision of self/wage employment. Under this programme the youth 310 are imparted training in more than 25 trades and 40 percent of funds allocated under this scheme are meant for women. The expenditure to implement this programme is shared equally by the Central and State Governments.

Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY)

- Indira Mahila Yojana is another women development programme initiated by the Government, which was launched in August 1995 in more than 200 blocks of the country. The main objective of this programme is to give a forward thrust to the women education, awareness income-generation capacities and the empowerment of women. The platforms for the forward thrust are to be the self-help groups at the grass-root level. Under this scheme women are to be constituted into Mahila Block Societies (MBS) at the Anganwadi level. At the grass-root level under every Anganwadi there should be women's self-help groups. The Mahila Groups will be encouraged to take up some thrift activity also. The fund so collected over a period can be revolved amongst the members for financial support to the expansion of their income generation activities or also for starting of a new activity. The groups can also avail credit facilities from State and National level lending institutions like Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Social board, etc. the government of India affords a group with financial support to a tune of Rs. 5,000/-. Thus, the IMY is a strategy to co-ordinate and integrate components of all sectoral programmes taken up by women.

Mother and child tracking system (MCTS)

- The Mother and Child Tracking System, launched in 2009, helps monitor the health care system to ensure that all mothers and their children have access to a range of services, including pregnancy care, medical care during delivery, and immunizations. The system consists of a database of all pregnancies

registered at health care facilities since 1 December 2009, and all births since 1 December 2009.

Priyadarshini

- Priyadarshini, initiated in April 2011, is a programme that offers women in seven districts access to self-help groups. Livelihood enhancement, Envisages holistic, empowerment of 1,08,000 poor women and adolescent girls through formation of 7200 SHGs. Address women's , political, legal and Women , Villagers in ,general due to empowerment of women Girl children and , due toàInfants women receiving better services 4745 self-help groups (SHGS) formed in up and bihar Community service centers (CSCS) National bank for agriculture and rural , development (NABARD) is the lead programme agency for the implementation Training to the SHG members on topics such ,ncome generation and allied activities, marketing of products and social issues etc. 24 www.visionias.in ©Vision IAS health problem issues through rigorous capacity building. Women industrialists are offered comprehensive, loan services at liberal conditions & at concessional fee of interest, for financial actions.

Conclusion

To sum up, planned development has been considered to be the most effective way of solving the numerous problems comes in the way of eradicating poverty, reducing imbalances and preventing discriminations among vast number of poor people living in rural areas, especially of rural poor women folk. In this process various policies and programmes intended for empowerment of women and children have been implemented for which special budget allocations are made in government various schemes are being implemented to uplift socio-economic status of rural poor women and children paving a path for their empowerment. Thus the government has been making sincere efforts to empower women and children in socio-economic and politico-cultural aspects, so that a welfare state and a prosperous nation can be built. Thus, in this chapter the governmental policies and programmes implemented for empowerment of women have been examined to fulfill in the fourth objective.

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