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An Analysis Of The National Policy **Of Women Empowerment.**

Authored By - Divyanshi Singh

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ABSTRACT

Women have been granted a secondary status since we live in a typical patriarchal society, and this is reflected in the political, social, and economic arenas. Without the progress and empowerment of women, inclusive growth and development cannot be accomplished. The paper critically analyses Indian policymaking in relation to women's empowerment. It addresses constitutional safeguards, government policies and programmes and how they are carried out, indices of women's empowerment, and where India falls short.

eywords - Women Empowerment , social rights, Gender Equality , government, policy

INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment refers to empowering women to make decisions about their lives and careers and ensuring their equality in all spheres, including economic, personal, social, political, and legal rights. Women are working side by side with men in today's workplace because of the empowerment of women. A woman also strikes a balance between her responsibilities to her family, house, and career. They are juggling a variety of duties at home, including those of mother, daughter, sister, and wife, as well as those of professionals, with both amazing simplicity and complexity, according to the United Nations, Five main elements make up a women's empowerment programme:

- creating a sense of worth for women
- Women's right to make and exercise their own decisions
- Access to resources of all kinds and equal opportunity for women is a right.
- Women have a right to control and regulate their lives, both inside and outside of the home.
- Women's capacity to contribute to the development of a more just social and economic system.

Women are thought to have had nearly equal position with men in ancient India, particularly during the early Vedic Era. But after Manusmriti arrived, women's standing was reduced to that of a man's property. With the arrival of Muslim monarchs in India during the mediaeval

era, the situation of women deteriorated. Reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought for the advancement and emancipation of women. In order to allow women in India the opportunity to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with males and take part in national progress, the Indian Constitution has paid particular attention to their requirements.

A socio-political aspiration envisioned in relation to the broader framework for women's rights is the empowerment of women. It is a path that enables women to reach their full potential and to exercise their rights to opportunity, resources, and choices, as well as the freedom to make decisions both inside and outside of the house. Only when improvements in women's conditions are coupled with their capacity to shape social change as a result of equal opportunities in the political, social, and economic arenas of life will national policies for women's empowerment be successful.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ministry of women and child development website was referred to collect data on various government scheme like beta pasha beta bachao , Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana etc. Along with it Press Information Bureau site was referred for various drafts and notices on policy. Official site of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh was referred and ministry of petroleum and natural gas official site was referred to get data on ujjwala yojna. National commission for women was referred for formulation and suggestions in this paper.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse national policy for woman empowerment of 2001 and 2016
2. To analyse welfare schemes for women in India
3. To analyse the need for national policy for woman

ANALYSIS OF OBJECTIVES

The Indian Constitution's Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, and Directive Principles all explicitly state the importance of gender equality. In addition to guaranteeing women's equality, the Constitution gives the State the authority to implement measures that positively discriminate in support of women. Our laws, development strategies, plans, and programmes

have all been created within the context of a democratic state with the goal of advancing women in a variety of fields. There has been a noticeable transition in the response to women's problems from welfare to development since the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974–1988). In recent years, it has become clear that the key factor in defining women's position is their empowerment. The National Commission for Women was established in 1990 to protect the rights and legal privileges of women through a Parliamentary Act. Women now have seats reserved for them in Panchayats and Municipalities thanks to the 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Indian Constitution, creating a solid framework for their involvement in local decision-making.

1. India committed to ensuring equal rights for women by ratifying a number of international agreements and human rights instruments. The ratifying of the Convention on the Elimination of Any and all Forms of Inequality Towards Women (CEDAW) in 1993 is a significant one of them.
2. India has wholeheartedly endorsed the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (1995), the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), the Mexico Plan of Action (1975), and "Further efforts and measures to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action," the UNGA Summit on Gender Equality and Development & Peace for the twenty - first century, was held for the purpose of The plan also takes account of the sectoral policies and the commitments made in the ninth five-year plan with regard to the empowerment of women.
3. The women's liberation movement and a large network of non-governmental organisations that are deeply rooted in their communities and have a thorough understanding of women's issues have inspired efforts for the empowerment of women.
4. The objectives set forth in the Constitution, laws, programmes, policies, plans, and related procedures, on the one hand, and the contextual reality of women's status in India, on the other hand, nevertheless remain far apart. The Shramshakti Report, 1988, the Platform for Action, Five Years After- An Assessment, and the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, "Towards Equality," all provide in-depth analyses of this.
5. Gender disparity manifests itself in various ways, the most obvious of which is the trend of steadily declining female population ratio over the past few decades. Other aspects

include societal stereotyping and domestic violence as well as societal violence. In some sections of the country, discrimination against young girls, adolescent girls, and women still exists.

6. The social and economic framework, which is built on formal and informal norms and practises, is related to the root causes of gender inequality.
7. As a result, women, especially those from weaker groups like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and Minorities—the majority of whom live in rural areas and work in the informal, unorganised sector—have insufficient access to resources for education, health, and production, among other things. As a result, they continue to be socially and economically ostracised.

Objectives and Goals

1. This Policy aims to promote the development, advancement, and empowerment of women. The Strategy will be extensively distributed to encourage everyone to actively participate in accomplishing its objectives.
2. One of the goals of this policy is to create the conditions for women to develop fully and reach their full potential through supportive economic and social policies.
3. The equal enjoyment by women and men in all areas of political, economic, social, cultural, and civil life of all fundamental human rights and freedoms.
4. Equal opportunity for women to participate in and make decisions in the social, political, and economic affairs of the nation.
5. Equal access to occupational health and safety, social security, public office, good education at all levels, career and vocational advice, employment, and equal pay for women.
6. Improving legislative frameworks to eradicate all forms of discrimination against women
7. Changing cultural perceptions and local customs by active participation of both men and women
8. Integrating a gender perspective throughout the design process.

9. abolition of all types of abuse against women and girls, as well as prejudice against them;
10. Establishing and enhancing collaborations with groups in the civil society, especially those that support women.

Policy Directives

Legal Judiciary Systems

The legal and judicial systems will be improved to better meet the interests of women, particularly in instances of domestic abuse and assault. To guarantee that justice is swift and the punishment given out to the offenders is proportionate to the seriousness of the offence, new laws will be introduced and current laws will be examined.

1. The Policy would strive to support reforms in personal laws such as those connected to marriage, divorce, maintenance, and guardianship in order to eradicate discrimination against women, at the initiative of and with full involvement of all parties including communal and religious leaders.
2. The advancement of property rights within a patriarchal structure has facilitated women's subservient position. By developing consensus, the Policy would work to advocate reforms in the law governing property ownership and succession so that it is gender equitable.

Making Decisions

In order to fulfil the objectives of empowerment, women's equality in power distribution and active involvement in decision-making, including political process decision-making at all levels, shall be ensured. Every effort shall be made to ensure that women have full access to and involvement in all levels of decision-making bodies, including legislative, executive, judicial, corporate, and statutory bodies, as well as advisory Commissions, Committees, Boards, Trusts, etc. When appropriate, on a time-bound basis, affirmative action measures like reservations and quotas, including in higher legislative institutions, will be taken into consideration. In order to enable women to engage successfully in the developmental process, women-friendly personnel policies will additionally be developed.

Important aspects of the 2016 Draft National Policy for Women

The Pam Rajput Committee report, which the MWCD established in 2012 and which delivered its recommendations in 2016 along with a recommended national policy and a plan of action to reduce violence against women, served as the basis for the policy in large part.

Prenatal and maternal mortality will continue to be a top concern, with an emphasis on a synchronized referral transportation system for safe childbirth and the provision of emergency obstetric treatment in challenging, remote, and isolated locations.

In order to change the focus of family planning activities from female sterilisation to male sterilisation, it attempts to develop "a gender transformative health strategy".

It places a high priority on improving the health of women of all age and increasing geriatric healthcare to address the 8.4% of the populace that are women over 60.

It suggests "innovative transportation options" like "cluster pooling of minibuses" to enrol more females in secondary schools and sustain present girl students in an effort to overcome the issue of travelling the length from home to school.

In order to foster regard for women in men from an early age, the policy discusses including men and boys via advocacy, awareness-generation programmes, and community programmes.

It also observes that more women are using artificial reproductive methods. It suggests actions to protect the rights of commissioning mothers, surrogate moms, and the kids born through surrogacy.

In order to address the vulnerabilities of widows, abandoned, single, separated, and divorced women and create an opportunity for them, it is mentioned that "a comprehensive social protection mechanism" will be designed. One example is the construction of a 1000-room housing for widows and other susceptible women in Vrindavan.

The policy emphasises the trafficking of women as another area of concern. The draught policy includes measures to improve naari adalats and family courts, build a suitable and comprehensive record on crimes against women, strictly monitor how (law) enforcement authorities respond to violence against women, and more.

Additionally, it emphasises increasing women's participation in politics and the workforce through need-based training, reducing the gender wage gap, providing women with business opportunities through programmes like E-haats, recognising the economic and social value of women's unpaid work at home, attaining equality for women in agriculture, and effectively implementing the law to protect women's rights to immovable property as well as skill development.

With initiatives like one-stop centres, women's helplines, mahila police volunteers, reservations for women in the police force, immediate response mechanisms via panic buttons in cell devices, public and private transportation, and surveillance systems in public places, the policy seeks to improve security environments.

Indian Constitutional provisions to protect women's rights

The Indian constitution attempts to provide for women specifically.

Preamble: The Preamble to the Indian Constitution guarantees social, economic, and political justice as well as equality of opportunity, status, and human dignity. As a result, it treats men and women equally.

Fundamental Rights: Article 14 guarantees the equality of men and women.

Discrimination based on sex is expressly forbidden under article 15(1).

The State may take affirmative action measures in support of women under Article 15(3).

In accordance with Article 16, every citizen has an equal chance to be hired or appointed to a position.

DPSP : Article 39 (a) of the Constitution mandates that the state must focus its policies on providing the equal right to a sufficient standard of living for both men and women.

Equal remuneration for equal work is required by Article 39(d) for both men and women.

According to Article 42, the state must make provisions for maternity leave and reasonable and humane working conditions.

Welfare schemes for women

1. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO -

In order to deal with sex selective abortion and the falling child sex ratio, which was 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011, it was introduced in January 2015. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development are working together on this project. The programme is now being carried out in 405 districts around the nation.

Preventing gender-biased sex-selective elimination is the main goal, ensuring the girl child's survival and protection, ensuring that girls receive an education and may participate, defending the rights of young girls.

Performance Evaluation: Sex Ratio at Birth: According to data from the Health Management Information System (HMIS), the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) increased by 16 points from 918 (2014–15) to 934 (2019–20).

Health: ANC Registration: The percentage of women who register for antenatal care during the first trimester has increased from 61% in 2014–15 to 71% in 2019–20. Institutional Deliveries: From 87% in 2014–15 to 94% in 2019–20, the percentage of institutional deliveries has improved.

Education: According to preliminary statistics from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), the gross enrollment ratio (GER) of girls in secondary schools increased from 77.45 in 2014–15 to 81.32 in 2018–19.

Toilet for girls: From 92.1% in 2014–15 to 95.1% in 2018–19, more schools now have functional separate restrooms for girls.

Change in Attitude: The BBBP programme has been able to draw attention to significant issues such female infanticide, girls' lack of education, and denial of their rights throughout the life cycle. One of the major events commemorated in each district is Beti Janmotsav.

2. UJJWALA

The programme offers BPL households a financial contribution of Rs 1600 for every LPG connection. The beneficiaries of Ujjwala 2.0 will also receive a free hotplate and without deposit LPG connection, as well as the first refill.

In accordance with Ujjwala 1.0, the goal was to connect 50 million women across BPL homes to LPG by March 2020. However, in August 2018, women from seven additional groups were included in the scope of the programme: SC/ST, beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), PMAY, Tea Garden Workers, Forest Dwellers, Most Backward Classes, and Islanders. The beneficiaries of Ujjwala 2.0 would receive an extra 10 million LPG connections.

The PMUY's initial phase provided free cooking gas connections to 8 million low-income people, including those from Dalit and tribal communities. The nation's LPG infrastructure has grown significantly. Throughout the nation, and over 11,000 new LPG distribution channels have opened in the previous six years. Low Refill Consumption: Encouraging Long-Term LPG Use Remains a Challenge, and Low Refill Consumption Hampered Recover the Outstanding Loans Disbursed Under the Program. On December 31, 2018, only 3.21 refills were used on average annually. Anomalies in the system include the granting of connections to undesired recipients, issues with the state-run oil marketing companies' software for determining intended recipients, and defects in the deduplication procedure.

3. SWADHAR (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances) (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)

It aims to protect women, particularly those who are in difficult situations, such as widows, destitute and abandoned women, women who have been released from prison, victims of sexual abuse and crimes, such as those who have been trafficked and saved from brothels, migrants or refugees who have been made homeless as a result of natural disasters.

4. The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women)

With a corpus of Rs. 31 crores, the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women) was established in 1993 in response to the socioeconomic barriers that impoverished women in the nation's rural and unorganised sectors experienced in obtaining microcredit from the country's official financial system.

5. Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) Scheme under the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)

It is a conditional cash transfer programme for expectant and nursing moms that aims to enhance the environment for these women by offering financial incentives for better health and nutrition.

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7. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

With effect from January 1st, 2017, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefits programme being implemented in all districts of the nation. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is carrying out a centrally funded programme. Scheme for Direct Benefit Transfers: To help pregnant women with their increased nutritional demands and to partially make up for lost wages, cash benefits are directly sent into their bank accounts. All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), with the exception of those who hold regular work with the Central Government, State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), or those who receive benefits of a like nature under any currently in effect law. For the family's first child, all qualified expectant mothers and nursing mothers who became pregnant on or after January 1, 2017, are eligible.

Those who meet the requirements are given a financial incentive of Rs. 5,000 over three instalments: Early pregnancy registration, Antenatal examination, Registration of the kid's birth and completion of the first round of immunisations for the family's first child still alive. Under the Janani Suraksha Yojana, eligible beneficiaries also get financial incentives (JSY). Consequently, a woman earns Rs. 6,000 on average.

8. Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme

9. The cost-sharing ratio between the centre and states for the Scheme's implementation is 60:40, with the exception of the North East and Special Category States, where the ratio is 90:10. The Scheme is carried out through the State Government/UT Administration.

By offering technical assistance to the corresponding governments on matters relating to women, it is intended to work at the national level (domain-based knowledge support) and state level (State Resource Center for Women).

Another plan is for the District Level Center for Women (DLCW) to gradually encompass 640 districts. These centres will facilitate women-centric programmes at the village, block, and state levels and provide the district-level Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme a foothold.

As part of block level activities, community interaction through university student volunteer will play a crucial role in raising awareness of several vital government schemes/programs as well as societal issues.

9. ONE STOP CENTRES

It is a programme that is sponsored by the government to address the issue of violence against women. It debuted in April of 2015. It is a part of the National Mission for Women's Empowerment umbrella programme, which also includes the Indira Gandhi Matritrav Sahyaog Yojana. There will be one-stop centres set up all around the nation, with at minimum one OSC in each mission around the globe, to offer comprehensive support and aid to women who have been victims of violence. Indian missions serve as a vital conduit for communication between the Indian community worldwide and the Indian government.

To assist women who have been impacted by violence, whether it occurs in the home, in the community, at work, in private or public settings. Particularly for women who experience economic, psychological, emotional, and physical abuse, regardless of caste, creed, ethnicity, class, level of education, age, or marital status. The central government gives the state governments and administrations in Union Territories 100% of the funding for it through the Nirbhaya Fund.

(Nirbhaya Fund - A non-lapsable corpus fund for women's protection and security is provided through the Nirbhaya Fund Framework. It was founded in 2013. The Department of Economic

Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of India is in charge of managing it. It can be used for initiatives and programmes relating to the safety of women.)

Why is a National Policy for Women needed in India?

Given the long-term nature of problems affecting women in India, it is necessary to strengthen processes that support the holistic development of women by putting an emphasis on a coordinated method for carrying out the policies of the relevant Ministries/Departments and by fostering an environment that is supportive of social change. Women in India still face issues like feminizing poverty, poor investments in social sectors, rising violence against women, and stereotypical representation of women in society despite the particular efforts the state has made for their welfare. Since the last National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in India was created in 2001, the idea of women's empowerment has evolved. Instead of only being welfare receivers, it is now necessary to involve them in the development process, providing welfare with a heavy dosage of rights. This policy's draught aims to address this change. In India, it will determine how the government acts toward women for the next 15 to 20 years.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Better Education Possibilities: Educating women also educates the rest of the family. In order to increase women's self-confidence, education is crucial. Additionally, it gives people the chance to alter their social status. Education empowers and instils confidence in the ability to make better judgements. To guarantee females' rights to an education and to be free of discrimination in educational institutions, the education policy must be more inclusive. Aiming to favourably alter young men's and boys' attitudes toward women and girls is another goal of education reform. **Skills and Micro Finance:** Women who have financial stability thanks to skills and micro financing are no longer dependent on others in the community. For women to be financially empowered, it is crucial to train them in non-traditional skills that are in demand on the market and to increase their employment in the public and private sectors. **Female Safety** To secure the safety of women across the nation, a multi-sectoral approach should be developed to educate women about current government programmes and mechanisms. A few positive moves in the favour of women's protection are the Panic Button and the Nirbhaya Police Squad. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, was passed to protect female employees' right to equality in position and opportunity and to create safe work environments for women. **Specific Measures at the Lower Level of**

Governance: In order to increase inclusiveness in governance and enhance the position of women in India, it is necessary to design, support, and promote programmes at the lower level of governance. For illustration: The purpose of this effort, which was started by Swagatam Nandini in Katni, Madhya Pradesh, is to celebrate the birth of females. Under the Ladli Lakshmi Scheme, parents of newborn baby girls are honoured with baby kits and a little procession to enjoy the arrival of their daughter. Nanhe Chinh (Panchkula, Haryana): Families of newborn girls are advised by anganwadi workers (AWWs) to bring their children to neighbourhood AWCs. Along with the names of the mother and the young girls, their footprints are drawn on a piece of chart paper and hung on the AWC wall. Education Incentives: Increasing financial incentives for further education is necessary to reduce the greater dropout rate among girls. Villages and districts should get rewards for achieving an equal child sex ratio via education, information, and communication efforts. E-governance should receive more attention so that timely oversight of the funds granted by the federal government and different state government for scholarships for female students may be ensured. Enhancing Basic Amenities in Rural Areas: Improving basic infrastructure can lighten the load on domestic labour. For instance, rural women's household work frequently include taxing duties like collecting fuelwood and water. Clean natural gas (which is already improving) and piped drinking water will lessen this strain. From women's development to women-led development: Instead of being passive receivers of the benefits of development, women should be redefined as the builders of India's progress and development.

An educated and powerful woman will assure education and empowering for future generations, hence the effects of women led growth are indisputable. Enhancing Basic Amenities in Rural Areas: Improving basic infrastructure can lighten the load on domestic labour.

Although the policy attempts to respect the interests of women and aspires to empower them, it is mute on the subject of marital rape. The strategy claims to acknowledge the complexity in gender roles brought about by "the new millennium, and the realities of a rapid evolving global and national scene," in addition to more conventional women's empowerment programmes. Making laws alone, though, is insufficient. It is necessary to bring about changes in how society views women as well as in how men and boys behave in relation to family structures and women's groups. Then and only then can we move forward with giving women the same protections and rights as men.

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