

WWJMRD 2015; 1(6): 25-27  
www.wwjmr.com  
e-ISSN: 2454-6615

**Suruchi**  
Research Scholar, School for  
Management Studies,  
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar  
University (A Central  
University), Lucknow, India

## Impact of government programmes in the development of women

**Suruchi**

### Abstract

Women are the most important component of our society but still they have hindrances in getting their rights. Women should be empowered with the rights of education, health, security, jobs, skills and also decision making authority, better living standard, and respect. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. As women are the important part and their development is also very important. Government has started many programmes for upliftment of women and makes them strong part of our society. This paper will explore the impact of those Government programmes on women. The analysis of those programmes which work positively or negatively in the women upliftment. In the case of women empowerment can lead to the economic growth as they play an active role in their families, their society and also for our Country. Through these programmes they are indirectly helped by the Government.

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Upliftment, Government Programmes, Economic Growth

### Introduction

Women are also the part of our society but they do have less authority. Society cannot be created without women contribution. Generally, there is discrimination among men and women. Women have hindrances in every aspect of work. From centuries, societies are trying to develop without giving their rights to women. For the welfare of society, condition of women should be improved. As both males and females are components of a society and they are depending upon each other. Man wants to dominate woman because male dominated societies having gender discrimination and inequality exist. Men are empowered in this society and here women are considered servant of them. Women do not have their rights. Women empowerment includes women awareness of their rights, their self-confidence, also to have a control over their lives both at home and outside and their ability so as to bring a change in this society. Empowerment also has many elements which do also depend and also relate to each other i.e. economic, social, political and personal. The Economic empowerment, means to give woman their own rights in the economy. Social empowerment means the status of woman in this society should be equal to man by eliminating injustice and inequity. Women should also have respectable value in this society. The Political empowerment means women should have seats in provincial and national assemblies and also giving one woman the right of one vote. Personal empowerment means women should have freedom in their personal matters.

Women can change their own status in economy, and also of the societies and countries. Often contributions of women in this economy are ignored, and their work is also underestimated. Gender discrimination reduces the chances for the women to eliminate poverty and also to improve their lives. The Inequality between women and men are found i.e. women have little access to resources which leads to the slow growth in this economy. Women empowerment in the economy increases participation of women in labor force and it reduces poverty in the economy, access of women farmers to the resources increase production and they can also support their families, and as women are the owners of property and earn money from it. Women contribute to their families, societies and also countries financially. As this brings development in the economy.

Government Welfare Schemes for women in India-

- Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: work under special circumstances for women (widowed, deserted) to their upliftment.

### Correspondence:

**Suruchi**  
Research Scholar, School for  
Management Studies,  
Babasaheb Bhimrao  
Ambedkar University (A  
Central University), Lucknow,  
India

- Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS)-The Mother and Child Tracking System, launched in 2009, that helps monitor the health care system as to ensure that all the mothers and their children can have access to a range of services, also including pregnancy care, and the medical care at the time of delivery, and also immunizations. This system consists of a database of all the pregnancies registered at health care facilities since 1 December 2009, and all births since 1 December 2009.
- The Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Conditional Maternity Benefit Plan (CMB)- Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) is scheme sponsored by national government for the pregnant and lactating women age 19 and over for the first two live birth. The programme, which do began in October 2010, and provides money to help to ensure the good health and also nutrition of the recipient. As of March 2013 the programme is being offered in 53 districts around the country.
- Sabla - The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla is an initiative launched in 2012 that targets the adolescent girls. This scheme offers a package of benefits to at-risk girls between the ages of 10 to 19. It is also being offered that initially as a pilot programme in 200 districts. The programme offers a variety of services that help young women to become self-reliant, includes nutritional supplementation and education, health education and also services, and life skills and vocational training.
- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (The National Credit Fund for Women) which was created by the Government of India in 1993. Its purpose is to provide lower income women with access to loans to begin small businesses.
- National Mission for Empowerment of women (NMEW): It is a mission to facilitate the process of coordination of all women's and socio-economic development programmes across the ministries and department, was launched on 8 March 2010 so as to ensure economic and social empowerment of women.
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan: Working since 2000-2001 to provide for the variety of interventions for universal access and retention, filling the gender and social category gaps in the elementary education and also improving the quality of learning.
- National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM): A self help group (SHG), formed by 10-20 women in general (5-20) in difficult areas is the primary building blocks of the NRLM institutional design.

### Literature Review

Investing in women is not only the right thing to do but the smart thing to do (Ban Ki Moon, 2008). Small numbers of women work and for the same work they earn less than men (Duflo, E., 2011). A large number of women has entered in the labor force but not been treated as equals to men. They earn less than men and have less opportunity for growth (Goldin, C., 1990). Women have always been granted secondary role in the family and society. Women are aware of gender inequalities and are trying to fight them (Panigraphy, R.L., & Bhuyan, D., 2006). Women should have access to resources and right to participate in decision

making. Increase in power of women will hurt power of men (Oxaal, Z., & Baden, S., 1997).

Empowerment is to challenge injustice which is forcing people to take part in society on conditions which are unfair, or in ways which reject their rights (Oxfam, 1995). Empowerment means the power to select and requires change in the structures of society that form power relations and unequal distribution of resources and opportunities in society. Empowerment has two inter-related elements: resources and agency. Resources include both tangible and intangible assets. Tangible resources are financial and material assets, and intangible resources are knowledge, skills, and ability, and participation in political and social activities. Agency is power by which people set their goals and objectives and achieve them (Kapitsa, L. M., 2008).

The Inter-American Development Bank (2010) defined women's empowerment in terms of 'expanding the rights, resources, and capacity of women to make decisions and act independently in social, economic, and political spheres' (p. 3). The UN (2001) defined women's empowerment in terms of five components: 'women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally'.

As gender equality concerns began to enter the mainstream of development policy, there were various attempts to conceptualize women's empowerment in ways that spoke to the mainstream policy discourse. My own contribution to these attempts sought to translate feminist insights into a policy-oriented analytical framework. It defined women's empowerment as the processes through which women gained the capacity for exercising strategic forms of agency in relation to their own lives as well as in relation to the larger structures of constraint that positioned them as subordinate to men (1999; 2001).

According to some experts, there are three elements of empowerment: self-empowerment, mutual empowerment and social empowerment, and these three elements are related to each other. Self-empowerment means individual effort, mutual empowerment means relationships with others, and social empowerment is generated by removing social, political, legal and economic hurdles to get individual influence. Concentration on one or two elements of empowerment is not sufficient for achieving important change (Kenneth, E. Pigg, 2002). Development is not only made for people but they must contribute to it. People should participate actively in the decisions and actions of their lives. Investment in women skills and giving them power to make their own selection is not only important but also leads to economic growth and development (UN, 1995). Empowerment is explained by how much people participate in the decisions and actions of their lives (Oxfam, 1995).

Charmes and Wieringa (2003) have defined a Women's Empowerment Matrix that consists of six dimensions -- physical, socio-cultural, religious, economic, political, legal -- and six levels: individual, household, community, state, region, and global. Grown (2008) defines three domains of empowerment (adopted by the Millennium Project Task

Force on Education and Gender Equality): the capabilities domain, which evaluates knowledge and health factors through indicators of education, health, and nutrition; the access to resources and opportunities domain, which primarily refers to access to political decision making and economic assets; and the

Security domain, which considers violence and conflict matters.

### Objective of the Study

- To find out the status of the women in the society
- To know the programmes run by Government
- To know the impact of the Government Programmes on Women
- The challenges that are faced by the Government during Implementation of women empowerment Programmes.
- To understand the general response from the mass public over these programmes in their areas.

### Research Methodology

#### Data Collection

The research has been done on primary data as well as on secondary data. It was collected through websites and from various journals, magazines, articles, annual reports and questionnaires.

#### Sampling Units

For analysis, 50 respondents mainly women were interviewed in each of the three blocks through stratified random sampling of the selected Panchayats (selected with due representation for all sections of the society. The sample was distributed across nine Panchayats three from each block.

### Analysis and Findings

In the area of development related women, according to survey 77% respondents admits the great role of MGNREGA to positively changed their lives and feeling dependent and monetized earnings have increased consumption choices and reduce economic dependence. They got special facilities like child care facilities, proper sanitation arrangements at work sites, no need to go far from their home for work. But 23% of women who still feel that they are unable to actively perform because there are unawareness, social and cultural contexts that restrict women participation in some places. Through assessment of MCTS programme there is an urgent need to create data processes and supervision guidelines that complement existing workflows and service delivery priorities. Health staff should be trained to implement proper supervision guidelines. The IGMSY while recognizing these aspects attempts to bring positive change in women's situation by providing them a conditional cash maternity benefit as partial wage compensation. These objectives are enabling women to exercise their right to adequate rest, nutrition and recovery during maternity, promote appropriate practices for care and service utilisation and encourage women to follow optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). In Indian context, adolescent girls are vulnerable to physical and educational neglect. Malnutrition is more common in India with over 90% of young girls reported as anemic. Academically, adolescent girls have a much higher rate of school dropout in comparison of boys. Such neglect

becomes an impediment to the progress of young girls and women in society. The RGSEAG Sabla program works to combat these issues by focusing on nutritional and health, educational requirements. But still the proper benefits are not reached to the actual beneficiaries and need to increase awareness and generate publicity about the scheme. It is found that under RKM it is not sufficient for a Delhi based organisation like RKM to function effectively and manage projects spread over the entire country. To enhance its geographical reach, the kosh should be allowed to open regional offices with adequate staff for its significant result. Through implementation of NRHM we got improvement in many indicators for women. As per the India Human Development report, fertility rate have come down and have reached replacement levels in number of states. The SSA(Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) has had positive results for girl child education. Enrollment of girls at primary level and upper level increased over the years.

### Conclusion

Through the study and close observation of these government programmes and condition of the women, we conclude that these programmes are special components for women and improves their lives and made them better. Despite the progress that has been made, there are still large number of women community and individual not received benefits of these programmes even not aware about them. The development and make positive changes through these programmes are not too difficult to achieve but there is need to become more active, sincere and honest to implement them. Instead of making lots of efforts still the process of development and growth is not so fast and desirable. These works are not should be only on paper but through diagnosing proper implementation problem we can achieve more successful result.

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