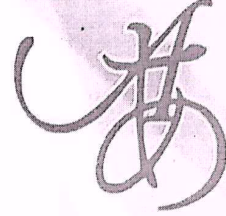


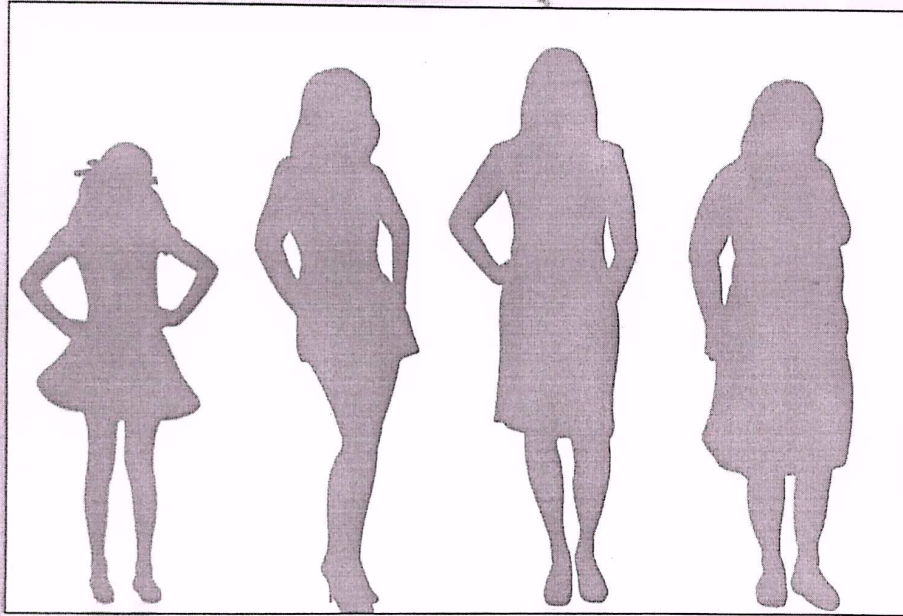


ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

Peer Reviewed Referred  
and UGC Listed Journal  
Journal No. 40776



ISSN 2277 - 5730  
AN INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
QUARTERLY RESEARCH JOURNAL



# AJANTA

Volume - VII, Issue - IV  
October - December - 2018  
English Part - II

Impact Factor / Indexing  
2018 - 5.5  
[www.sjifactor.com](http://www.sjifactor.com)



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## 16. Policies for Adolescent Girls in India with Reference to Gender Budget

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### Introduction

In the last two decades of twentieth century there are tremendous changes in the economic and social structure of the society. Role of women is also changing. Educational and health profile of women is also expected to change with this structure. In India work participation rate of women in the economy is increasing but still they are invisible in the economic contribution. Women are also an important part of the economy. The constitution of India guarantees equality for both men and women. However the ground reality is different. Gender inequality through gender discrimination on economic, political and social ground has observed. To use the potential of women as well as to upgrade the status of women in the economy, allocation of funds for policies and programmes for women is necessary. Gender budget initiatives are the most important policy tool to transform economic and social status of women in the society. According to the women empowerment policies at international and national level, budget allocation for women empowerment programmes includes classification on the basis of stages of women life. In these stages adolescence is an important and transitional stage. This paper attempts to focus on the schemes for adolescent girls and relevance of gender budget in India. It also tries to find out the expenditure pattern for such schemes in India.

### Research Methodology and Objectives

Descriptive research method with secondary data has been used to analyze the concept. Various reports of World Health Organization WHO, UNICEF and Handbook of Government of India have been used as a secondary resource in this paper. Following are important objectives of this paper:

- 1) To analyze the concept of Gender budgeting and budgeting for adolescent girls in India.
- 2) To evaluate the necessity of separate budgetary expenditure for adolescent girls.



### Review of Literature

UNICEF report on adolescence (2011) states that adolescence is an age of opportunity. For Children. Developing countries should focus on the development of young population.

This report reviews situation of adolescent girls in various countries .It suggests various Programmes which should be incorporate in budgetary policy.

Day and Dutta (2014) in the paper 'Gender responsive budgeting in India: Trends and Analysis' explains various programmes related with women empowerment other than govt.

Schemes. It discusses role of NGO'S in the development of adolescent girls.

Government handbook on gender budgeting (2015, 2007) Ministry of women and child Welfare, highlights scope of gender budget and emphasizes on the policies for adolescent girls. It discusses needs and priorities according to the life cycle of women.

Geeta Menezes (2016) in her paper has reviewed various schemes for adult women as well as for girlss in India.

### Gender Budget: Meaning and Scope

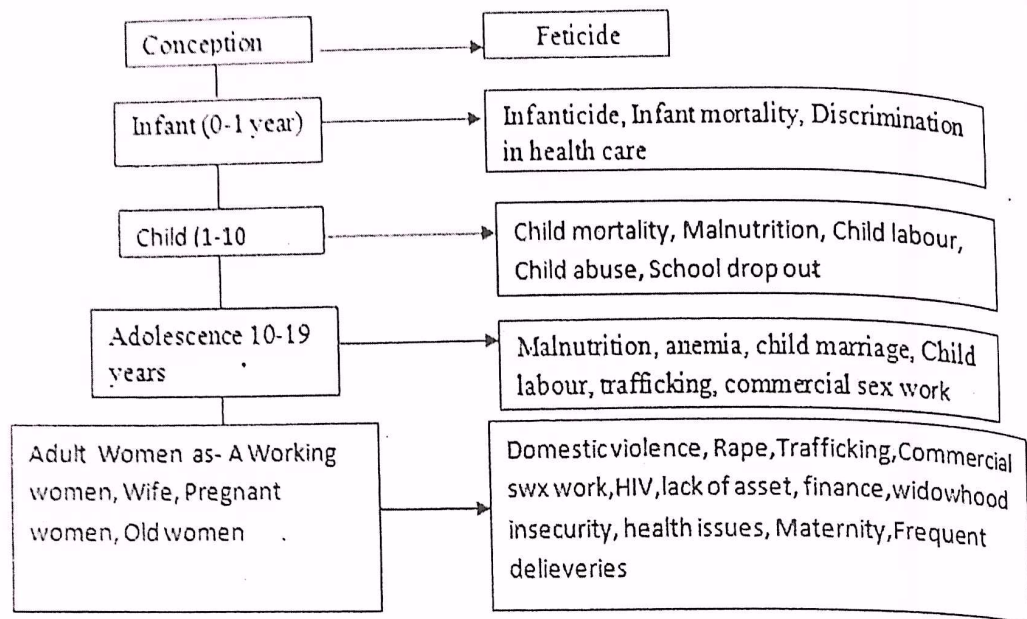
National Budget impacts differently on men and women. Budget is an important instrument to run various policies through money. It is also useful to change the pattern of the society. That's why gender budget is also an important tool to reduce discrimination of men and women in the society. Gender budget is not separate budget but it is a priority of the government to allocate the programmes and policies for women through it. It is also referred as "Women budget", gender sensitive budget' Out of total population 48% is of women population. We can say that half population is of women. Out of 48% women, 9 to 10% are adolescent girls. These women and adolescent girls not only comprise a large part of the valuable human resource but impacts on the development of the economy. But in India women and girls faces disparities in access and control over resources. It is reflected in indicators of health, nutrition, literacy, education attainments, skill level and occupational status. This discrimination is throughout the life cycle. It is described in the chart given below.



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**Discrimination through the Life Cycle of Girls and Women**



(Compiled from Gender Budgeting Handbook GOI 2007)

Above chart explains the nature of life cycle of women and type of discrimination and problems she faces in each stage. In the developing economy like India, there is a great impact of culture and tradition. These different stages of life of women face variety of problems. We need separate policies and programmes through gender budget for it. Present demographic profile of India reflects that young population is 70% that's why we can say that this is a country of young people. Today every fifth person in India is an adolescent and every third young person. According to the world population prospects – The 2012 Revision, UN 2013 age group between 10-19 years is adolescent group. We need to focus on adolescent population. Following table shows Population of Adolescents (Table No.1)

**Population of Adolescents (Table No.1)**

Country	Proportion of Adolescents % (10-19 years)	Proportion of Adolescents % (10-24 years)
China	14.10	17.80
India	19.60	19.00
USA	13.80	14.10
Indonesia	16.80	16.80
Brazil	17.30	17.20
Pakistan	23.10	21.20

(World Population prospects – The 2012 Revision, UN2013)



Table 1 clearly focuses the percentage of adolescent population in India is comparatively higher. In case of Pakistan, percentage of adolescent population is higher but it is still underdeveloped nation. That's why; investing in this segment of population will give demographic dividend to India.

### Investing in Adolescence

Investing in female adolescent is an important feature of gender budget. At many international conventions, India has committed to take action to improve the situation of women. The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (1980), world conference on Human Rights in Vienna (1993), International conference on population and development in Cairo (1994), fourth world conference of women in Beijing (1995) and common wealth plan of action on gender and development (1995) are the conventions leading to policy change regarding gender control development in India. Gender Budget is a tool to implement policies with special reference to adolescent girls and women in general. To ensure the nutritional, health and educational needs of its adolescent population, especially girls is a key challenge for India. Investing in adolescent girls through budgetary measures is necessary because:

- a) To upgrade social and economic status of women and to increase the work participation rate.
- b) To reduce gender gap through improvement in sex ratio and mortality rate. It is possible through Nutritional and healthcare awareness programmes.
- c) To fight against poverty, inequality and gender discrimination. Transmission of poverty leads to disadvantages among adolescent girls like child marriages domestic violence.
- d) To make them competitive because they are part of the present living, working, contributing towards society and economy.

**Various Programmes for Adolescent Girls in Central Budget:** India has adopted the concept of gender budget since 2005. Most of the schemes of adolescent girls are run through women and child development ministry.

1. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme SABL A for empowerment of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years. Skill development and various training programmes are conducted under this scheme.



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2. Kishori Shakti Yojana by Ministry of Women & Child development is especially for adolescent girls as a component of ICDS – Integrated Child Development Programme. This scheme helps to increase nutritional status. Provides required literacy and numerical skills, life skills and vocational training.
3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), a comprehensive programme. is being implemented to address the declining child sex ratio (CSR)
4. Gender Budgeting scheme is being implemented as a tool for mainstreaming gender perspective of various stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, impact assessment and revisiting of policy.
5. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent girls addresses nutritional needs of adolescent girls. Under this 6kg of food grains were given to under nourished adolescent girls. It was targeted girls children between the ages of 11-19 who are less than 35kg. Programmes like national nutritional mission has given higher weightage in the gender budget scheme of 2018-19.

These most of the programmes are under the platform for integrated child development programme. Economic Survey 2017-18 reports that India's performance towards women empowerment. But still fund allocation for gender budgeting is not sufficient. Overall gender budget allocation for 2018-19 is 1,21,961 CR while in absolute terms in comparison with 2017-18 it is up to 5% to the total budgetary expenditure.

### Conclusion

Gender budget and its implementation can play significant role in the economic development of India. Share of women in the population is 48% but in the productive sector of the economy, it is less than 7%. Gender budget can focus on the non-economic sector contributed by women. Many non-monetary activities are important and not considered in the economy. Focus on adolescent girls through nutritional access, education, skill development can create good impact on overall women empowerment programme. Govt should increase the total outlay for gender budgeting through various schemes.



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