

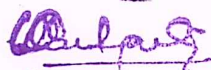


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17. Review Article on Gender Sensitization and its Awareness

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Abstract:-

Women's Empowerment has been an worldwide issue of immense discussions and contemplation over the last decades. This agenda has been taken up at the top of the lists of most of the government plans & programs as well. Efforts have been taken on a regular basis across nations to address this issue and enhance the socio-economic status of women. However, it has been observed that most of the policies and programs view empowerment in the economic sense only working in the belief that economic self-reliance empowers women ignoring other variables like health, education, literacy etc.

Keywords: Education, Literacy, Health, Economy, Political and Social, Empowerment,

Introduction:-

The Sanskrit Shaloka, "Yatra Poojyante Nariastu Ramante Tatra Devah", means that in the ancient past there was great respect for the women. The women were very high in morals and in performance of duties. It is said, historically in early times women in India enjoyed equal opportunities like that of men. Women in the Vedic ages not only received their due recognition in society but also got equal treatment in the matter of educational training. Many women were composers of Rig Vedic hymns. Gargi and Maitreyi, for instance were looked upon as the leading philosophers of the time. At the end of the Rig Vedic period the social status and position of women came to be degraded. This is clearly evident from most of the slokas in Manusmriti. According to the injunctions of the Smriti literature a woman was reduced to a dependent role in relation to men. Men folk were now callous about women's education; what they deemed to be important in women was their capacity to bear and rear children. Only among the women of Vaishnava community academic pursuits were still considered to be of great significance. Due to the changed political, social and economic situation in the medieval India, the status of women received a great setback and consequently the opportunity for the education. Education of women remained somewhat neglected during the British period. With the independence day new



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era with regard to the status of the women. Today the Indian woman has equal rights with man to individual and social status, right to education, right to work with adequate wages and security of tenure, right of freedom of association, right to property and right to health and leisure. The Article 39 of the Constitution lies down. The citizen's men and women have the right to an adequate means of livelihood. There is equal pay for equal work for both men and women. According to a report, "After independence social and economic justice has progressed in this country and so has education of women. The Muslim women are now participating in ever large numbers. The reform movement like Aryar Samaj and Brahmo Samaj, and the Congress movement had created a situation in which education of women received a lot of attention ever from before independence. As a result of this private and governmental effort, education among women has registered distinct progress. Thus while the percent of literacy among women was only 7% when the British left as against 15% among men, it has advanced to about 15% now among them against 35% among men. This, however, indicates that progress of education among them is still backward compared to men. There are still only about 17 women along with 31 men in primary schools one woman along with three men in secondary schools and about three female against eight males in university and higher education. As the population of men and women in about equal in this country, sexes should be about equal in all stages of education, to give a comparative idea of the place of women education in total education.

Savitribai Jyotirao Phule was a social reformer and poet. She played an important role in fighting for women's rights in India during British rule and is described as "one of the first-generation modern Indian feminists". Savitribai Phule started Mahila Seva Mandal in 1852, which worked for raising women's consciousness about their human rights, dignity of life and other social issues. She went on to organise a successful barbers strike in Mumbai and Pune against the prevailing practice of shaving of widows' heads. On 1st Jan. 1848, India's first school for girls was started at Bhide's wada in Pune by Mahatma Jotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule.

Current Population of India is 1, 349, 880, 463 (1.34 billion). This is the second most populous country in the world, while China is on the top with over 1, 415, 489, 506 (1.41 billion) people. The figures show that India represents almost 17.85% of the world's population, which means one out of six people on this planet live in India. Although, the crown of the world's most populous country is on China's head for decades, India is all set to take the numerous positions by 2030. With the population growth rate at 1.2%, India is predicted to have



more than 1.53 billion people by the end of 2030. More than 50% of India's current population is below the age of 25 and over 65% below the age of 35. About 72.2% of the population lives in some 638,000 villages and the rest 27.8% in about 5,480 towns and urban. The birth rate (child births per 1,000 people per year) is 22.22 births/1,000 population (2009 est.) while death rate (deaths per 1000 individuals per year) is 6.4 deaths/1,000 population. Fertility rate is 2.72 children born/woman (NFHS-3, 2008) and Infant mortality rate is 30.15 deaths/1,000 live births (2009 estimated). India has the largest illiterate population in the world. The literacy rate of India as per 2011 Population Census is 74.04%, with male literacy rate at 82.14% and female at 65.46%. Kerala has the highest literacy rate at 93.9%, Lakshadweep (92.3%) is on the second position and Mizoram (91.6%) is on third.

Every year, India adds more people than any other nation in the world and in fact the individual population of some of its states is equal to the total population of many countries. For example, Population of Uttar Pradesh almost equals to the population of Brazil. It, as per 2001 Population Census of India, has 190 million people and the growth rate is 16.16%. The population of the second most populous state Maharashtra, which has a growth rate of 9.42%, is equal to that of Mexico's population. Bihar, with 8.07%, is the third most populous state in India and its population is more than Germany's. West Bengal with 7.79% growth rate, Andhra Pradesh (7.41%) and Tamil Nadu (6.07%) are at fourth, fifth and sixth positions respectively. The sex ratio of India stands at 940. Kerala with 1058 females per 1000 males is the state with the highest female sex ratio. Pondicherry (1001) is second, while Chhatisgarh (990) and Tamil Nadu (986) are at third and fourth places respectively. Haryana with 861 has the lowest female sex ratio.

Table:- 01, Population Of India 2018

Sr. No.	Particulars	Population
01	Current Population of India in 2018	1,349,880,463 (1.34 billion) As of March 04, 2018
02	Total Male Population in India	697,078,271 (69.7 Crore)
03	Total No of Females in India	652,802,191 (65.2 Crore)
04	Sex Ratio	945 females per 1,000 males



Table:-02, Population In 5 Year Age Group

Sr. No.	Age group	Male	Female	Ratio
01	00-04	58,632,074	54,174,704	924
02	05-09	66,300,466	60,627,660	914
03	10-14	69,418,835	63,290,377	912
04	15-19	63,982,396	56,544,053	884
05	20-24	57,584,693	53,839,529	935
06	25-29	51,344,208	50,069,757	975

Table:-03, Male And Female Ratio Acording The Above Age Group

Sr. No.	Male	Female	Ratio	Male	Female	Ratio
01	43,036,377	39,950,283	928	15,595,697	14,224,421	912
02	48,825,259	44,982,353	921	17,475,207	15,645,307	895
03	50,488,158	46,316,336	917	18,930,677	16,974,041	897
04	44,570,557	39,331,915	882	19,411,839	17,212,138	887
05	38,138,662	35,696,384	936	19,446,031	18,143,145	933

On the basis of above population of India we are think about the Women Empowerment in each field. In fact, the status, employment and work performed by women in society is the indicator of a nation's overall progress. Without the participation of women in national activities, the social, economical or political progress of a country will be stagnated. Women constitute half of the humanity, even contributing two-thirds of world's work hours. She earns only one-third of the total income and owns less than one-tenth of the world's resources.

The female literacy rate in India is less than the male literacy rate. Far fewer girls than boys are enrolled in school, and many girls drop out. In urban India, girls are nearly on a par with boys in terms of education. However, in rural India, girls continue to be less educated than boys. According to the National Sample Survey Data of 1997, only the states of Kerala and Mizoram have approached universal female literacy. According to scholars, the major factor behind improvements in the social and economic status of women in Kerala is literacy.

Under the Non-Formal Education programme (NFE), about 40% of the NFE centres in states and 10% of the centres in UTs are exclusively reserved for females. As of 2000, about 300,000 NFE centres were catering to about 7.42 million children. About 120,000 NFE centres were exclusively for girls.



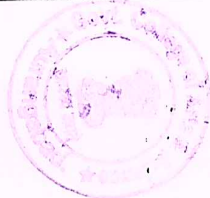
According to a 1998 report by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the chief barriers to female education in India are inadequate school facilities (such as sanitary facilities), shortage of female teachers and gender bias in the curriculum (female characters being depicted as weak and helpless). The literacy rate is lower for women compared to men: the literacy rate is 60.6% for females, while for males it is 81.3%. The 2011 census, however, indicated a 2001–2011 decadal literacy growth of 9.2%, which is slower than the growth seen during the previous decade. There is a wide gender disparity in the literacy rate in India: effective literacy rates (age 7 and above) in 2011 were 82.14% for men and 65.46% for women. Women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. With a decline in their status from the ancient to medieval times to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, their history has been eventful. In modern India, women have held high offices including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and Governors. Women's rights under the Constitution of India mainly includes equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination; further, India has various statutes governing the rights of women. As of 2011, the President of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the parliament) were women. However, women in India continue to face numerous problems such as crime, gender inequality.

Table:-04, Literacy In India

Sr. No.	Year	Female	Male	Total
01	1901	0.7	9.8	5.3
02	1911	1.1	10.6	5.9
03	1921	1.8	12.2	7.2
04	1931	2.9	15.6	9.5
05	1941	7.1	24.9	16.1
06	1951	7.3	24.9	16.7
07	1961	7.3	24.9	16.7
08	1971	18.7	39.5	29.5
09	1981	24.8	46.9	36.2
10	1991	39.2	63.9	52.1
11	2001	54.00	76.00	62.38
12	2011	65.46	82.14	74.4

Source: Census of India 2011

Improving education for women helps raise their levels of health, nutrition and reduces fertility rates. Education increases people's self- confidence and enables them to find better jobs,

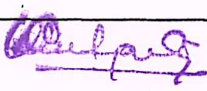


engage in public debate and make demands on government for health care, social security and other entitlements. In particular, education empowers women to make choices that improve their own and their children's health and chances of survival. Education helps to prevent and contain disease and is an essential element of efforts to reduce malnutrition. Further, education empowers women to make choices that improve their welfare, including marrying later and having fewer children. Crucially, education also increases women's awareness of their human rights their confidence and their actual ability to assert those rights. Despite significant improvements in recent decades, education is not universally available and gender inequalities persist. A major concern in many countries is not only limited numbers of girls going to school, but also limited educational pathways for those that step into the classroom. This includes, more specifically, how to address the lower participation and learning achievement of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Delivering multiple roles effortlessly every single day, **women** are undoubtedly the backbone of any society. **Doting daughters, caring mothers**, competent colleagues and a wide range of many other roles are played by women around us flawlessly and with grace. However, they have been an ignored fraction of the society in many parts of the world. This, in turn, has caused women at large to bear the brunt of **inequality, oppression, financial dependability and other social evils**. For centuries now, women have been living under bondage that restricts them from achieving professional as well as personal heights. To restore their rightful and dignified status, The Art of Living has initiated **women empowerment programs** that provide a solid foundation to nurture the inner strength, creativity and self-esteem of women from all walks of life. With this base well established, women are now able to go out into the world, prepared to handle any challenge with skills, confidence and grace. They come to the forefront, where they become agents of peace and positive social change for themselves, their families, other women and their society.

Gender sensitization presides over gender sensitivity which refers to the modification of behaviour by raising awareness of gender equality. This can be achieved by conducting various sensitization campaigns, training centres, workshop, programs etc. Sensitization in the domain of Humanities and Social Sciences is seen as awareness informed propensity or disposition which aims at changing behaviour so that it is sensitive to certain issues. Gender sensitization may be seen as the awareness informed disposition or propensity to behave in a manner which is




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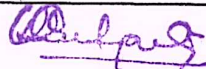
sensitive to gender justice and gender equality issues. It is interlinked with gender empowerment. Gender sensitization theories claim that modification of the behaviour of teachers and parents towards children which can have a causal effect on gender equality. Gender sensitizing is about changing behaviour and instilling empathy into the views that we hold about our own and the other genders. It helps people in examining their personal attitudes and beliefs and questioning the 'realities' they thought they know. It is basic requirement for the normal development of an individual. Without being sensitive to the needs of a particular gender, an individual may refrain from understanding the opposite gender and in some acute cases even him or herself.

There are number of elements in the society which are deprived of their basic rights in every society, state and nation, but these elements lack in the awareness of their rights. In fact, women are the most important factor of every society. Even though everybody is aware of this fact, yet nobody is ready to accept this fact. As a result, the importance which used to be given to women is declining in today's society. As a consequence of this growing tendency of underestimating women such as to make them occupy a secondary position in society and to deprive them of their basic rights, the need for empowering women was felt. Today we enjoy the benefits of being citizens of a free nation, but we really need to think whether each of the citizens of our country is really free or enjoying freedom, in the true sense of the term. If we consider our country, each Indian citizen is given certain basic rights. The Constitution of our nation doesn't discriminate between men and women, but our society has deprived women of certain basic rights, which were bestowed upon them by our Constitution. Due to such current situation, it was needed to make women free from all the shackles and to empower them as well. This is nothing but empowerment of women.

"Women's empowerment is defined as the process in which their spiritual, political, social, economic and legal strength of the women. This also includes the right to raise their level of confidence regarding their own capabilities. Empowerment includes the following aspects –

- The ability to bring about improvement in one's own capabilities.
- Freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity.
- The competence to modify other's attitudes in a democratic manner.
- They have complete control of their life, both within and outside of their home and workplace,
- Firmness while taking collective decisions.




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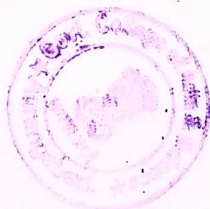
- to make their own choices and decisions,
- have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities,
- have equal social status in the society,
- have equal rights for social and economic justice,
- determine financial and economic choices,
- get equal opportunity for education,
- get equal employment opportunity without any gender bias,
- get safe and comfortable working environment.
- The ability to take their own decisions.
- To take information and have other facilities at their disposal which would enable them to take proper decisions.
- To have wide choices
- Possessing positive way of thinking regarding the ability to bring about transformation.
- To participate in continuous and self-propagated development process and to take active participation in the transformation process.
- To control on negative factors and build up a positive image of oneself.

Social Women Empowerment:- A critical aspect of social empowerment of women is the promotion of gender equality. Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life.

Educational Women Empowerment:- It means empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. It means making women aware of their rights and developing a confidence to claim them.

Economic And Occupational Empowerment:- It implies a better quality of material life through sustainable livelihoods owned and managed by women. It means reducing their financial dependence on their male counterparts by making them a significant part of the human resource.

Legal Women Empowerment:- It suggests the provision of an effective legal structure which is supportive of women empowerment. It means addressing the gaps between what the law prescribes and what actually occurs.



Political Women Empowerment:- It means the existence of a political system favouring the participation in and control by the women of the political decision-making process and in governance.

Economic Empowerment of Women

In its capacity as the nodal Ministry, the Ministry of Women and Child Development seeks to promote economic empowerment of women through policies and programmes cutting across sectors, mainstreaming gender concerns, creating awareness about their rights and facilitating institutional and legislative support for enabling them to develop to their full potential. The important programmes in different areas are

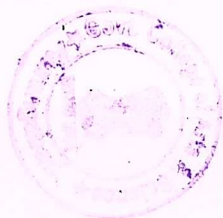
Support To Training & Employment Programme For Women-(Step)

A Central Sector Scheme launched in 1986-87, seeks to upgrade skill of poor and asset less women and provide employment on sustainable basis by mobilizing them in viable cooperative groups, strengthening marketing linkages, support services and access to credit. The scheme also provides for enabling support services in the form of health check-ups, legal and health literacy, elementary education, gender sensitization and mobile crèches. The ultimate endeavour of each project is to develop the group to thrive on a self-sustaining basis in the market place with minimal governmental support and intervention even after the project period is over. Since inception, around 250 projects have been provided financial assistance under the scheme.

The ten traditional sectors identified for project funding under STEP comprise of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries, handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries, sericulture, waste land development and social forestry. The scope and coverage of the scheme is being broadened with introduction of locally appropriate sectors being identified and incorporated into the scheme.

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme For Empowerment Of Adolescent Girls (Rgseag) – ‘Sabla’

A centrally-sponsored scheme was approved by the Government on 16.8.2010. The scheme is being implemented in 200 districts across the country on a pilot basis. In the remaining districts, Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) continues to be operational as before. However, SABLA has completely replaced Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) as all districts of NPAG are now part of the SABLA. The scheme, interalia, aims at vocational training for girls above 16 years of age for their economic empowerment. *Sabla* is being implemented through the



State Governments/UTs with 100 per cent financial assistance from the Central Government for all inputs other than nutrition provision for which 50 % Central assistance to States is provided. Anganwadi Centre is the focal point for the delivery of the services like

- Life Skill Education and accessing public services,
- Vocational training for girls aged 16 and above under National Skill Development Program (NSDP)
- The successful implementation of SABLA requires convergence with development activities/schemes of other Departments such as Health, Education, Youth Affairs, Labour, PRIs etc.
- Nearly 100 lakh adolescent girls per annum are expected to be benefitted under the scheme. Against the allocation of Rs. 350 crore for the year 2010-11, a sum of Rs. 330 crore (approx.) has been released to States/UTs. The year 2011-12 will be the first complete year of implementation of the scheme after which the physical and financial achievements made vis-à-vis the target would be assessed. A sum of Rs. 750 crore has been allocated for Sabla for 2011-12.

Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)

In order to address the socio-economic needs of the women and children of selected eight most backward districts in the North Eastern region in the economic arena, Central Social Welfare Board has formulated the Integrated Scheme for Women Empowerment (ISWE). The scheme is being implemented on pilot basis since 2008 and has the objective of meeting the felt needs of the area by mobilizing community action, converging available services and resources of the area, income generation through feasible and sustainable activities for women and to provide services for health awareness, career counselling vocational training, preventing child trafficking and other social evils.

National Mission for Empowerment of Women

The extent of empowerment of women from a holistic and macro-point of view is largely determined by 3 factors viz. economic, social and political identity. These factors are deeply intertwined and linked with many cross cutting linkages. It implies that if efforts in any one dimension remains absent or weak, the outcome and momentum generated by the other components cannot be sustained. It is only when all these three factors are addressed simultaneously and made compatible with each other can women be truly empowered.



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Therefore, for the holistic empowerment of women, an inter-sectoral approach has to be adopted. The vision for socio-economic empowerment of women is to empower women economically and socially to end exploitation and discrimination enabling them to develop their full potential to be active participants in nation building, sharing the benefits of economic growth and prosperity. To achieve this vision, the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) was launched on 8th March. The objectives of the Mission are to:

1. Ensure economic empowerment of women,
2. Ensure that violence against women is eliminated progressively,
3. Ensure empowerment of women with emphasis on health and education,
4. Oversee gender mainstreaming of programmes, policies, institutional arrangements and processes of participating Ministries, institutions and organizations, and
5. Undertake awareness generation as well as advocacy activities to fuel the demand for benefits under various schemes and programmes and create, if required, structures at district, tehsil and village level with the involvement of Panchayats for their fulfilment.

Economic Empowerment of Women is to be achieved through convergence of the schemes and programmes having focus on formation and promotion of SHGs so as to enable women to have access to micro credit and micro finance. Programmes like National Rural Livelihood Mission (erstwhile SGSY) of MoRD, Smayamsidha of MWCD and similar programmes of other Ministries and organizations would need to be converged to help the identified SHGs in a coordinated fashion. The Mission would see that access to credit by women SHGs under schemes of NABARD, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Financial institutions like NSCFDC/ NBCFDC/ NSKFDC of MoSJ&E and nationalized banks, is coordinated well and delivery of credit is timely. In order to promote self employment opportunities and create livelihood options for women, it would ensure that training and skill upgradation under schemes / programmes of MoS & ME, MoL & E, Mo RD, MWCD etc. are available to the women beneficiaries of SHGs and that there is no duplication of efforts. Sustainability of income generation activities by women would be looked at and they would be ensured provision of adequate forward, backward and horizontal linkages. The relevant programmes of NABARD, RMK and participating Ministries as well as organizations with components of processing, storage, distribution and market networks would be put in a convergent mode to strengthen the livelihood of women. The existing monitoring systems in place at the state and district levels would be utilized by the



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National Mission for tracking the effectiveness of convergence efforts in the area of economic empowerment. While at the district level, the District Collector as per the existing arrangement of the DRDA would be responsible for monitoring convergence efforts at the district level, the Chief Secretary of the State Government with technical inputs from the State Resource Centre to be set up for women (SRCW) will be made responsible at the state level. At the national level the National Mission Authority (NMA) will be responsible for overall monitoring of actionable agenda requiring convergence and for which it will take the inputs from both the Mission Directorate and the National Resource Centre for Women (NRCW).

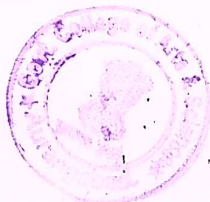
Rashtriya Mahila Kosh – (National Credit Fund For Women)

The **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh** (National Credit Fund for Women) was set up in 1993 with a corpus of Rs. 31 Crore, against the backdrop of socio-economic constraints faced by poor women to access micro – credit from the formal financial system in the country, especially those in the rural and in unorganized sectors. The principal corpus has increased to Rs.100.00 Crore by 2009-10.

Gender Budgeting and Economic Empowerment Of Women-

Budgets, which influence the overall level of national income, employment and reflect the priorities of the government regarding public investment, also promote gender equality within the national development framework. The Government of India is committed to promoting gender equality and has adopted Gender Budgeting (GB) as a tool to address the inequalities faced by women. The purpose is to ensure the translation of Government's policy commitments on gender equity into budgetary allocations.

To institutionalize the process of Gender Budgeting, the Government had initiated the formation of Gender Budget Cells (GBCs) within all Central Ministries / Departments in 2005. These Cells are required to take up evaluation of existing Government programmes and schemes from a gender perspective and identify new areas of intervention for addressing the existing gender gaps. The flow of funds under certain women specific schemes / programmes are also being monitored through a Gender Budget Statement (Statement 20) as a part of the Union Budget Document since 2005. MWCD, as the nodal agency, is pursuing with other Ministries / Departments to build their capacity so as to integrate gender concerns across sectors / schemes / programmes ensure proper allocation and reprioritization of resources. The number of Ministries reflecting their allocations in the Gender Budget Statement have gone up from nine in 2005-06 to



29 in 2011-12, with a magnitude of Gender Budget (BE) increasing from Rs.14379.00 Crore (2.79%) in 2005-06 to Rs.78251.00 Crore (6.22%) in 2011-12.

Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme-

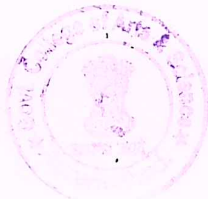
With a view to encourage women to join/ continue with gainful employment, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers (RGNCs) was introduced in 2006. The scheme seeks to provide day care facilities to children in the age group 0-6 years from families with a monthly income of less than Rs. 12,000/-. In addition to being a safe space for the children, the crèche provide services like supplementary nutrition, pre school education, emergency health care etc. The scheme provides for grant of Rs.3532/- per month for a crèche, limited to 90% of the schematic pattern or actual expenditure whichever is less, and the remaining expenditure is borne by the implementing agencies. Honorarium to crèche workers is fully funded under the scheme. Funds are separately provided to the implementing agencies for one time training of crèche workers. The Central Sector scheme is implemented through Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and two national level mother NGOs i.e. Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh (BAJSS).

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (Igmsy):-

Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) scheme is a Conditional Cash Transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women to contribute to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers. It is being implemented initially on pilot basis in 52 selected districts using the platform of ICDS. IGMSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme introduced in the FY 2010-11, under which the grant-in-aid is released to States / UTs. The Scheme envisages providing cash directly to P&L women during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions. It would address short term income support objectives with long term objective of behaviour and attitudinal change. The scheme attempts to partly compensate for wage loss to pregnant & lactating women both prior to and after delivery of the child.

Women Empowerment Schemes:-

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. One Stop Centre Scheme
3. Women Helpline Scheme



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4. UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
5. Working Women Hostel
6. Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
7. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
8. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)
9. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
10. Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
11. Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
12. Mahila police Volunteers
13. Mahila E-Haat
14. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
15. General Grant-in-Aid Scheme in the field of Women and Child Development
16. General Grant-in-aid (GIA) Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations in the field of Women and Child Development
17. Family Counselling Centre Scheme
18. Kishori Shakti Yojana
19. Rashtriya Bal Kosh (National Childrens Fund)
20. Dhanalakshmi
21. Grant-in-Aid for Research, Publication and Monitoring
22. Gender Budgeting Scheme
23. Nutrition Education and Training through Community Food & Nutrition Extension Units(CFNEUS)
24. General Grant-in-Aid Scheme for innovative projects

Constitutional Provisions, Special Laws & National Policies in Support of Women Empowerment:-

The importance of women as an important human resource was recognized by the Constitution of India which not only accorded equality to women but also empowered the State. A number of Articles of the Constitution repeated towards the socio-economic development of women and participation decision making. These are:

(Signature)



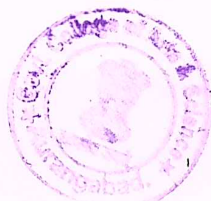
- **Article 14** Men and women to have equal rights and opportunities in the political, economic and social spheres.
- **Article 15(1)** Prohibits discrimination against any citizens on the grounds of religion, race, sex, caste etc.
- **Article 16** Equality of opportunities in matter of public appointments for all citizens.
- **Article 39(d)** Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- **Article 42** The state to make provision for ensuring first and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.

Government has also enacted specific laws to safeguard the interests of women and for up gradation of their status. These are:

- **The Hindu Succession Act, 1956** which provides for women the right to parental property.
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961** which declares the taking of dowry an unlawful activity and thereby prevents the exploitation of women.
- **Equal Remuneration Act, 1976** which provides payment of remuneration equal with men for work of equal value.
- **The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971** which legalizes abortion conceding the right of a women to go for abortion on the ground of physical and mental health.
- **The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983** which seeks to stop various types of crimes against women.
- **The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986** which prohibits the Vulgar presentation of women in the media such as- newspapers, cinema, T.V. etc.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 :

This Act, provides for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family. The goal of National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The policy states that: "Equal access to education for women and girls will be ensured. Special measures will be taken to eliminate discrimination, universalize, education, eradicate illiteracy and create gender sensitive educational system, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education to facilitate



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life-long learning as well as development of vocational or technical skills of women. Reducing gender gap in secondary and higher education would be a focus area. Specific time targets in existing policies will be achieved, with special focus on girls and women, particularly those belonging to weaker sections including the SC/ST/OBC/Minorities."

Importance of Education in Women's Empowerment:

Women's empowerment is not limited only for the Indian society. If we consider the global aspect in this regard, we see that women are being given equal treatment in developed nations. In fact, if we take a retrospect of history, we come to know that women have always been given secondary position in society, but the difference between men and women created by the Nature is but natural. It is education through which we realize this fact. When American women realized this, they opposed this injustice which was meted out to them by way of a huge movement, through which they asked for equal rights. For eradicating this injustice, the UNO (United Nations' Organization) framed a Convention / Charter which is called 'The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women' (CEDAW), which further led to the formation of Women's Commission. Taking an account of this background, we come to know that women's empowerment has now become a topic of global discussion. Seeing all the aspects of this discussion, we will realize that education is the only means for empowerment of women. Therefore, literacy should spread amongst women. The literacy rate amongst the women in the post- Independent Era is not as per the expectations. We, as a nation, dream of becoming a Super Power by 2020. For becoming a Super Power, each element of our society/ nation should contribute in the nation building process. But women, who are a major factor of this society, aren't literate then we can't expect to become a Super Power. Therefore, it is urgent for us to know the importance of women's education, which would, in turn, give an impetus to the process of women's empowerment.

Conclusion

Women empowerment need to improve the social, economic, political, educational, equal gender rights and spiritual strength for women all over the world. The modern society needs to bring sociological empowerments among women to address the social and gender discriminations. In terms of economy women entrepreneurship is necessary for the growth of Indian economy. The education of women is the important to change the position of society.



Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. Educated mother improve the health of their children and other family members. Child mortality rate is much reduced if the mother is educated. While being attracted to the modernisation and globalisation, we must be confident to say no to marginalization. At last I will conclude by the Quotes of Steve Maraboli **"THE EMPOWERED Women Are More Powerful Beyond Measure and Beautiful Beyond Description."**

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