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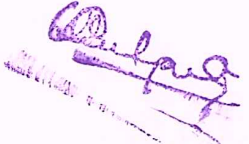


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18. Women Empowerment and Gender Budgeting In India

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Abstract:

The central government and state governments have taken much efforts for the women empowerment which are the signs to establish social justice in the nation.

Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as well as men. It is an ongoing process of keeping a gender perspective in policy/ programme formulation, its implementation and review. Gender Budgeting entails dissection of the Government budgets to establish its gender differential impacts and to ensure that gender commitments are translated in to budgetary commitments.

The present study explains the concept of gender budgeting and financial provisions of state governments and central government in the country for women empowerment.

Key Word: Gender Budgeting:

Introduction

After independence India made its own Constitution and made an identity as an absolute democratic nation. In preamble of constitution, it declares itself as SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC and REPUBLIC as well it promises to the people of nation of JUSTICE, LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY, UNITY and INTEGRITY of the Nation;

As a secular democratic nation, the peoples of India are multilingual and multi-religious. According to the census of 2011, India's total population is 1210193422. In this Population 51.54 % are males and 48.46% are females. Among all the population there are 79.80% Hindu, 14.23% Muslim, 2.30% Christian, 1.72% Sikh, 0.70% Buddhist, 0.37% Jain, 0.66% other religions and 0.24 not stated, live in India. But it doesn't mean that only majority population was considered, though Male Population or Hindu religion is in majority but central government and state Governments has also been taking so many efforts through implementation of various schemes for the development of minorities and women empowerment which are the signs to establish social justice in the nation.

The central government and state governments have provided various financial assistance for the empowerment and welfare of women in India. The central government runs about 147 schemes and state governments runs about 195 schemes (combined) in their respective state. The prime goal of all the central and state government schemes for women is to provide them protection, better health facilities, enough education to make them employable and to make them self-reliant. All these Schemes need financial assistance for its better implementation.

Women, constitute 48.46% of India's population, but they lag behind men on many social indicators like health, education, economic opportunities, etc. Hence, they need special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources. The way Government budgets allocate resources, has the potential to transform these gender inequalities. In view of this, Gender Budgeting, as a tool for achieving gender mainstreaming, has been propagated.

The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. However, wide gaps exist between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of women and girls, on the other. Achieving gender equity/ equality requires recognition of different needs, preferences and interests which affect the way men and women benefit from policies and budgetary allocations.

Gender Budgeting:

A gender budget is not a separate budget for women. Instead, the gender budgets are an attempt to assess government priorities as they are reflected through the budget and examine how they impact women and men.

Gender Budgeting is the application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process; this entails a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality.

Gender Budgeting is concerned with gender-sensitive formulation of legislation, policies, plans, programmes and schemes; allocation and collection of resources; implementation and execution; monitoring, review, audit and impact assessment

According to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, "It is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men"



In short "Women's budgets", "gender budgets", "gender-sensitive budgets", and "gender responsive budgets" are all terms that are used to describe initiatives that have used gender as lens from which to analyze budgets at national, regional, and civic levels.

Sources of Data:

The Present study is based on secondary data collected from Census Reports, Five-year Plan Documents, Union Budget Documents, Economic Surveys, Annual Reports of Department of Women and Child Development, UNDP Reports, research studies and online sources.

Review:

In the present study based on same review a few major works on the concept gender budgeting.

Ingrid Palmer (1995) in her paper "Public Finance from a Gender Perspective" draws attention to include gender issues in macroeconomic policies

Gita Sen (2000) in her paper "Gender Mainstreaming in Finance Ministries" focuses on three points of entry to engendering the work of Ministries of Finance.

Nirmala Banerjee and Poulami Roy (2003) in their paper "Gender in Fiscal Policies: The Case of West Bengal" have examined several fiscal policies adopted by the Government of West Bengal for the development of women in the State.

Goyal Anjali (2005) in her paper "Women's Empowerment through Gender Budgeting- A Review in the Indian Context", emphasises the effectiveness of gender budgeting as a means for achieving women's empowerment.

Swapna Gopalan (2008) in her book, *Gender Budgeting in India: Towards Achieving Gender Equity*, throws light on how India is moving toward empowerment of women through the new concept

Yamini Mishra and Bhumika Jhamb (2009) in their article "An Assessment of UPA-I through a Gender Budgeting Lens" evaluate the United Progressive Alliance government's budgets over the past five years through the gender lens.

Lekha Chakraborty (2013) in this research report "A Case Study of Gender Responsive Budgeting in India" finding out It is relatively easy to identify specifically targeted programmes for women from the budgets. However, these form less than 1 per cent of total budget. Therefore the real challenge of the gender budgeting exercise lies in the analysis of the remaining 99 per cent budget through a gender lens.

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Sheila Quinn (2016) in her paper "Europe: A Survey of Gender Budgeting Efforts" concluded gender budgeting led to significant changes in budget legislation and administrative practices. In some countries, it is also possible to tie gender budgeting efforts to expenditure and revenue policy reforms. At a time of continued fiscal austerity in Europe, gender budgeting can help inform fiscal policies to ensure gender-related goals are met

Why Gender Budgeting?

1. Gender Budgeting is important for focusing on following points:
2. Improving women's economic equality
3. Introducing more programmes for women focusing on skill development, healthcare, insurance, education, employment, pension and rehabilitation etc.
4. Decision making involves separate discussions on women aspect
5. Gender specific schemes will be introduced.
6. Every policy is evaluated based on Gender dimension
7. Identifying the basic needs of women and reprioritizing or increasing expenditure to meet these needs.
8. Mainstreaming gender concerns in public expenditure and policy
9. Strengthening civil society participation in economic policy making, enhancing the linkages.
10. Addressing gap between policy commitment and allocation for women by emphasizing on adequate resource allocation.
11. It is helpful for decreasing MMR, IMR and increasing Sex Ratio
12. Putting pressure and focus on gender sensitive programme formulation and implementation
13. Improving effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, and transparency of government budgets.

World History of Gender Budgeting:

The concept of gender budgeting has been introduced mostly in Commonwealth countries. Australia was the first country to implement a women's budget in 1984. Federal, state and territorial governments in Australia examined the impact of budgets on women and girls for 12 years until a change of government in 1996. South Africa's Women's Budget Initiative was initiated in 1995 and involves NGOs, parliamentarians, and a wide range of researchers and

advisors. Gender budget initiatives in Tanzania(1997) and Uganda(1999) examine the impacts of structural adjustment programs in these countries and specifically focus on education and health. Many of the earlier gender budget initiatives focused primarily on the expenditure side rather than the revenue side of government budgets. Since 1995 there have been gender budget initiatives in more than 60 countries around the world.

Gender Budgeting in India:

The first Gender Budget statements which were introduced in the Union Budget 2005-2006 included 10 demands for grants. The analysis shows that over the last eight years the allocations for women as a ratio of total budget have remained constant at approximately 5.5 %. Further only about 30% of the demand for grants or estimates of expenditure presented by Ministries to the central Government are reported in Gender Budgeting. After independence of India, five years planning was implemented which gave stress agricultural, industrial and service sector. In these five year plans government also focus on women empowerment schemes.

Seventh Plan: identified 27 major women specific schemes for monitoring to assess quantum of funds/ benefits flowing to women.

Eighth Plan: highlighted need to ensure a definite flow of funds from general developmental sectors to women

Ninth Plan: Women's Component Plan (WCP) - 30% of funds were sought to be earmarked in all women related sectors.

Tenth Plan: Aims at tying up concepts of WCP & Gender Budgeting

Eleventh Plan states that

'Gender equity requires adequate provisions to be made in policies and schemes across Ministries and Departments. It also entails strict adherence to Gender Budgeting across the board.'

Presently Gender Budget is classified into A & B category. 'A' category consists of schemes specific to women development and includes 621 schemes and In category 'B' not less than 30% of schemes are beneficial to women including 39 schemes have been identified, In 2017-18 a total of 660 schemes have been included under both categories



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Gender Budget: Part-A

PART A: 100% Women specific programmes (In Rs. crores)

Sr. No.	Ministry/Departments	2017-2018 Budget Estimates	2017-2018 Revised Estimates	2018-2019 Budget Estimates
01	Demand No. 2 Department of Agricultural Research and Education	44.04	19.74	21.74
02	Demand No. 5 Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	11.51	13.18	32.20
03	Demand No. 12 Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	11.51	13.18	32.20
04	Demand No. 13 Department of Posts	0.55	0.50	1.00
05	Demand No. 28 Ministry of External Affairs	32.72	32.72	31.72
06	Demand No. 48 Police	31.68 12.91 22.25		
07	Demand No. 49 Andaman and Nicobar Islands	26.18	22.20	21.10
08	Demand No. 50 Chandigarh	58.25	75.37	79.67
09	Demand No. 51 Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.64	11.24	15.55
10	Demand No. 52 Daman and Diu	0.36	0.36	0.40
11	Demand No. 53 Lakshadweep	3.04	3.04	3.32
12	Demand No. 57 Department of School Education and Literacy	320.00	320.00	255.90
13	Demand No. 58 Department of Higher Education	20.00	20.00	30.00
14	Demand No. 64 Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	1.20	0.65	0.74
15	Demand No. 66 Ministry of Minority Affairs	15.00
16	Demand No. 72 Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	3200.00 2251.81 3200.00		
17	Demand No. 82 Department of Rural Developm	23000.00	23000.00	21000.00

18	Demand No. 84 Department of Science and Technology	75.00	75.00	75.00
19	Demand No. 89 Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	150.00	150.00	155.45
20	Demand No. 96 Ministry of Tribal Affairs	120.00	120.00	130.00
21	Demand No. 98 Ministry of Women and Child Development	4269.88	4061.07	4286.09

(Source : www.indiabudget.gov.in)

Gender Budget:-Part-B

PART B: 30% Women specific programmes (In Rs. crores)

Demand.	Ministry/Departments	2017-2018 Budget Estimates	2017-2018 Revised Estimates	2018-2019 Budget Estimates
01	Demand No. 1 Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare	4344.30	3857.93	4791.90
02	Demand No. 4 Atomic Energy	30.00
03	Demand No. 5 Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	132.02	118.46	122.83
04	Demand No. 18 Ministry of Culture	29.29	29.29	31.87
05	Demand No. 25 Ministry of Earth Scien	115.00	109.00	112.35
06	Demand No. 26 Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	3.00	3.00	3.00
07	Demand No. 28 Ministry of External Affairs	329.17	329.17	332.10
08	Demand No. 42 Department of Health and Family Welfare	19288.01	22424.98	22267.21
09	Demand No. 48 Police	0.32	0.24	0.23
10	Demand No. 49 Andaman and Nicobar Island	14.66	14.66	14.50
11	Demand No. 50 Chandigarh	179.20	185.77	187.91
12	Demand No. 51 Dadra and Nagar Have	0.02	0.02	0.02
13	Demand No. 52 Daman and Diu	13.68	13.68	13.68
14	Demand No. 53 Lakshadweep	4.13	4.13	4.37
15	Demand No. 57 Department of School Education and Literacy	13335.00	13547.00	14455.00

16	Demand No. 58 Department of Higher Education	9777.27	10376.70	10366.70
17	Demand No. 60 Ministry of Labour and Employment	160.00	106.62	120.00
18	Demand No. 64 Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	473.85	494.67	579.19
19	Demand No. 66 Ministry of Minority Affairs	687.46	661.19	1255.50
20	Demand No. 67 Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	135.00	94.00	135.00
21	Demand No. 72 Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	282.30	124.75	34.00
22	Demand No. 81 Ministry of Road Transport and Highway	174.36
23	Demand No. 82 Department of Rural Devel	18250.00	20508.33	21208.33
24	Demand No. 89 Department of Social Justice and Empowerment	1953.24	1953.31	2184.09
25	Demand No. 90 Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	334.57	280.01	305.95
26	Demand No. 94 Ministry of Textiles	226.39	226.39	370.80
27	Demand No. 96 Ministry of Tribal Affairs	1385.44	1417.61	1563.91
28	Demand No. 98 Ministry of Women and Child Development	10338.69	10002.92	11744.99
29	Demand No. 99 Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	145.84	147.25	165.40
*	Grand Total (Part A + Part B)	113311.20	117221.47	121961.32

(Source : www.indiabudget.gov.in)

Union Government Budget (2017-2018) for Gender Budgeting revised estimate figures are allocated 117221.32 Crores for the various Ministry and Departments. Budget Estimate (2018-2019) Ministry of Women and Child Development department allocated 4286.09 Crores for Schemes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (0.01), Gender Budgeting and Research Publication and Monitoring (8.28), Ujjawala (60.00), National Mission for Empowerment of Women (267.30), Swadhar Greh (95.00), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) (5.00) Working Women Hostels (60.00), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (280.00), Women Helpline (28.80), Central Social Welfare Board (71.50), National Commission for Women (24.00), Scheme for

Adolescent Girls (500.00), Maternity Benefit Programme (2400.00), One Stop Centre (105.10), Other Scheme Funded from Nirbhaya Fund (359.09), and Mahila Police Volunteer (7.01)

Further, another significant announcement made by the Finance Minister underscores the government's intention to strengthen women's financial independence. An allocation of Rs 3 lakh crore for loans under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), 76 per cent of whose beneficiaries are women, has been announced. The scheme, launched by the Prime Minister in April 2015, provides loans up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

Present government popularity among women has been acknowledged by experts across the ideological spectrum, critics have so far argued that with schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana, which involves the redistribution of LPG benefits within the poorer population and Swachh Bharat, which invokes notions of women's honour, the government has so far predominantly reinforced traditional sex roles.

While 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' — which finance minister said has seen "unflinching success" has focused on the issue of female education, it has largely been a social campaign of the government, with no more than Rs 200 crore allocated for the scheme since its launch in 2015. With a clear focus on women's employment and financial independence, the government has shown intent to pull out women from the precincts of the home

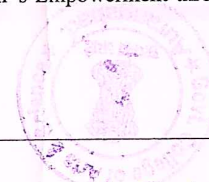
Conclusion

Gender Budget is a tool of women empowerment. Ministry of Women and Child Development coordinates the Ministries in their projects to realize the requirements of Gender Budgeting. Government created Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs) in government departments. Now almost 16 States have introduced Gender Budgeting in India.

The present study focus on all states government will be introduced Gender Budgeting, Gender-Specific schemes will be introduced, National policy for women will be formulated for every five years, every policy is evaluated based on gender dimensions and Sectoral initiatives on Gender Budgeting need to be given emphasis.

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